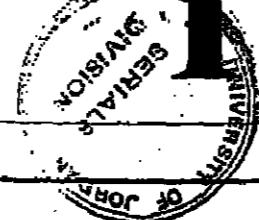


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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

50p

THE EUROPEAN TIMES

EUROPEAN ARTS
Weekend Times
page 40

Women tipped for cabinet after Tories sweep back with 21 majority

Major plans reshuffle today

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major returned to Downing Street yesterday with his personal mandate and an overall majority of 21 seats, promising to unveil his new team of senior ministers today.

Telling staff it was good to be back, he quickly turned his attention to selecting his cabinet, which will include at least one woman. Gillian Shephard, the Treasury minister, and Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, are expected to figure in the reshuffle.

Mr Major's government was returned with 336 seats in the Commons in a result that confounded pollsters' expectations. Labour took 271 seats, with the Liberal Democrats on 20 and others on 24.

The Conservatives took 43 per cent of the vote, marginally more than under Margaret Thatcher in 1987 despite the recession. Labour took 35 per cent, up four points on 1987 and the Liberal Democrats took 18 per cent, a drop of five points on the level achieved by the SDP/Liberal Alliance at the previous general election. The turnout for Thursday's election was 77 per cent, compared to 73 per cent in 1987.

Last night some of the prime minister's senior colleagues were speculating that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, might move to a new post leaving Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, and John MacGregor, Leader of

the Commons, as the favourites to take over at the Treasury. Although Mr Major is said to have found his Chancellor rather cautious, Mr Lamont's associates feel that he has "taken the heat" while the economy has been in trouble and should be allowed more time in the job while the economy improves.

Colleagues say that Michael Heseltine, whose major role in the election campaign is acknowledged in No 10, could almost name his own post if he chose to be difficult. They do not, however, expect the environment secretary to cause trouble and believe that he would be happy with the revamped Department of Trade and Industry. Sir Norman Fowler, the former employment secretary who left Mrs Thatcher's cabinet to spend more time with his family, is one of the names being mooted for home secretary.

Chris Patten, who lost Bath in the election after trying to combine running the Tories' national campaign with nursing a highly marginal seat, will stay on for a short while as party chairman but has not yet made up his mind whether to continue his political career. Mr Patten has advised the prime minister against any attempt to create a by-election to get him back in the Commons although Mr Major is keen to see him back in a senior cabinet role.

Among those expected to leave the cabinet are Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Tom King, the defence secretary. Friends say that Mr Major is a reluctant butcher, but there are question marks too about the future of William Waldegrave, the health secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary who clashed with the prime minister before the election over the future of British Rail, and Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. However, not all of those ministers will go in the reshuffle, which is said to be intended to freshen up the cabinet without a radical restructuring.

In a change announced in the Tory manifesto the energy ministry will be wound up. There will be two new cabinet posts, one in charge of the national heritage ministry, which will also look after sport and the arts, and another for a minister to take charge of the citizen's charter and civil service reform.

Mr Major had planned to bring into the cabinet two Treasury ministers who lost their seats in the election, Francis Maude and John Maples. The middle-ranking ministers who are in line for advancement to the cabinet are John Patten, who has been a highly capable minister of state for six years and who has an acknowledged flair for policy presentation, and Michael Portillo, the local government minister who had to push through the changes to the poll tax.

Confirmed on page 20, col 3

CITY ADDS £20BN TO THE VALUE OF MARKET

By RODNEY HORSON

CHAMPAGNE flowed and shares soared as the City celebrated the Conservative victory. After trading shares and sterling all night, dealers virtually shut up shop at midday and flooded the Square Mile's wine bars.

The FTSE index of the 100 top shares gained 136.2 points to close at 2,572.6, adding more than £20 billion to the value of the market. It was the biggest rise since shares bounced back after the October 1987 crash.

The pound gained two cents and 2½ pence as it soared against the dollar and the mark respectively to reach DM2.895 and \$1.7645.

BT's partly paid shares, up 19p to 119½p, were the most keenly sought stock as trading volume reached 52 million shares. With nationalisation fears gone, the package of shares in the ten electricity distribution companies added £57 to £3,040. Water shares spurned 70p on average. VSEL leapt 40p to 370p with the lifting of Labour's defence cut threat. The one disappointment was the small fall in inflation announced yesterday, by 0.1 to 4 per cent. With the latest bout of mortgage rate cuts coming in, the City had expected the retail price index for March to register 3.8 per cent. The underlying rate, excluding mortgages and poll tax, rose 0.5 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

Bubbly down, page 3
Shares soar, page 41
Stock market, page 42

Swing C to Lab: 2.06% Swing LD to C: 2.09% Swing LD to Lab: 4.15%

Full constituency results in supplement

STATE OF PARTIES

	Gains	Losses	Total
Conservative	11	44	336
Labour	48	5	271
Lib Dem	4	6	20
Others	2	10	24

Election 92, pages 2-8
Peter Riddell, page 16
Diary, page 16
Leading articles and letters, page 17
Photograph, page 20

Swing C to Lab: 2.06% Swing LD to C: 2.09% Swing LD to Lab: 4.15%

Full constituency results in supplement

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Swing C to Lab: 2.06% Swing LD to C: 2.09% Swing LD to Lab: 4.15%

Full constituency results in supplement

Country's voters let the pollsters down

By MATTHEW PARRIS

HARK! Do you hear sounds in the electoral underground? Do you hear the shuffle of feet? It is the pundits running for cover. It is the pollsters backtracking, the commentators executing a series of neat little sideways steps.

Is that the wind that we hear in the trees, or the whispers of "surprise shift" and "sudden switch"? Is that flash of white in yonder bushes the boottail of a retreating rabbit or the socks of a retreating pundit? Is it the murmur of the brook, or the murmur of "margin of error, margin of error" that fill the air?

After three weeks of confident pronouncement, not unremunerated, from us media experts, a great humbug is suddenly upon us. All at once, it seems, we never did claim to know: we made our disclaimers clear at the

time — don't you remember? We saw through a glass only darkly — we always said so. We have been misrepresented. The election result was entirely consistent with our predictions: the problem is that you readers vulgarised and over-simplified our predictions. We have been cruelly misunderstood...

After yesterday's news, the careers of a hundred politicians may lie in ruins, but we commentators are getting out from under. Mr Kinnock may be losing his job, but — oh my friends! — we are certainly not going to lose ours. We shall not be blaming ourselves that what we said did not square with what the voters did. It's the voters' fault. It's the politicians' fault. It's our readers' fault!

The swing was a few points out from what the exit polls predicted: you say: Ah, but you forgot that opinion changes. It seems that voters

changed their opinions about how they had voted — after they had voted. And you forgot the margin of error. Plus or minus three or four points either way and — hey presto! — the pollsters were spot on.

What's that I hear you protest? You say that if predictions of swing really offer only a 6 per cent band of possible outcomes, then why don't we present them like that? Have you considered what the result would look like? Think of the headlines: "Mori predicts a swing of between 2 per cent one way and 4 per cent the other"; "May or may not be a hung parliament — Gallup". Can you see news editors buying these? We'd be out of pocket.

Besides, what really blurs the clarity of our predictions is the infuriating habit voters have of changing their minds during the campaign. This is cheating. We offer you a snap-

shot of what you were thinking on Tuesday, you alter your opinions on Wednesday, you vote on Thursday, and then on Friday you complain that our predictions were out ... That's bad enough. But this time you sprung a real shocker on us. You seemed to have changed your minds in the small hours of Thursday morning. It was unsporting, to say the least.

Even more unsporting were the politicians. Neil Kinnock wrecked the pundits' calculations by opening his mouth. He said he was on course for No. 10. What sort of effect do you think that had on the voters? Half the people planning to vote Labour were contemplating this only because they assumed not too many other people

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Bob Worcester,
election supplement, page 1X

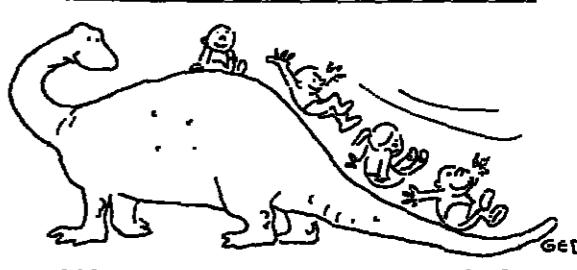
THE NOT THE TIMES ELECTION

OLIVER'S TWISTS



In 1642, King Charles faced a bloody conflict that would divide his country for a decade. Today, we publish a 12-page supplement to commemorate that fateful year, while Saturday Review looks at the contradictory traits in Oliver Cromwell's character

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOPS



Ride a dinosaur, tickle a stingray, join the monkey walk: there are a hundred ways to enjoy Easter with the children in Weekend Times plus Jonathan Meades' worst-ever meal out and — for celebrating or drowning your sorrows — Jane MacQuitty's champagne tips

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



From Olympic contenders to wheelchair charioteers, from dedicated joggers to charity fund-raisers... 25,000 people will run, walk and tumble through the tortuous London Marathon tomorrow. Our guide to who, where and when to watch is on page 51

NOT SO BLEAK HOUSE?



Will the spring sun, a new government and a hint of cheaper mortgages bring buyers out into the streets and brighten the housing market? Weekend Money finds cheer for frustrated sellers but a cloud on the horizon for savers — on page 45

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Smith is favourite to succeed Kinnock as Labour leader

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the shadow chancellor, is the strong favourite to succeed Neil Kinnock as leader of the Labour party.

Mr Smith, aged 53, has been heir apparent for almost as long as Mr Kinnock has been leader and many in the party argued privately both before and after the election that under Mr Smith the party would have won. The Scotsman is admired for his intellect, quick wit, repartee and statesmanlike professionalism.

Coming from the moderate right of the party, Mr Smith was seen by many as a more convincing politician than Mr Kinnock to implement the policies enshrined in the 1992 manifesto. Mr Smith has been accused of having an inflated ego but he is

has made clear that he would not oppose Mr Smith. Mr Brown has strong backing within the party.

Surprisingly, he did not have a high profile campaign, although as shadow trade and industry secretary he joined Mr Kinnock in wooing businessmen at the first of Labour's "business brunches". Yet at a Glasgow rally where Mr Kinnock was speaking, Mr Brown made an impressive warm-up speech.

His dour, cautious public manner and rigid professionalism have earned him friends and enemies in the party. Although privately the Scot is good company and a great entertainer, he does not project the same image publicly.

Politically at the centre of the party, Mr Brown is one of the most highly regarded of the party's 1983 intake. From 1985 to 1987 he was spokesman on regional affairs and shipping, becoming shadow chief secretary of the treasury in 1987.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, is another strong contender from the younger generation. Mr Blair, aged 38, the youngest member of the shadow cabinet, had a good campaign. His boyish, handsome looks and soft-spoken manner were displayed regularly on television and on press conference platforms. Appearances alongside Mr Kinnock on several occasions during the campaign tour, he delivered a powerful warm-up speech at Mr Kinnock's final rally in his Iswyn constituency.

Mr Blair uses the confidence developed at public school and Oxford to drive home his political vision. A barrister by profession, he is quick to underline his "socialist" beliefs, stressing the need to combine individual freedom with community obligations. He rose from assistant shadow spokesman for Treasury affairs from 1984 to 1987 to shadow employment secretary.

If the party decided to skip a generation, Gordon Brown, aged 39, would be one of the top candidates. Although he

widely liked in the party. He has also been instrumental in building respect for the party in business and industrial circles.

A QC, Mr Smith, educated at grammar school and Glasgow university, joined the Labour party in 1955, becoming energy under-secretary in 1974 and then minister two years later. From there he rose through the ranks of the party council office, becoming shadow spokesman for trade and industry, trade prices, energy and trade and industry before being appointed shadow chancellor in 1987.

Other possible contenders include Robin Cook and Bry-



Smith: statesmanlike heir apparent

an Gould. Mr Cook, who had a high-profile during the election campaign because of the focus on health, would be the only soft left candidate. He is regarded as a brilliant debater in the house.

Mr Cook's acerbic wit, intellect and talent as a strategist have won him admirers throughout the party, although he does not display the warmth and passion of a great communicator.

Bryan Gould is also among the top runners. The charming shadow environment secretary, on the party's centre right, soared to popularity among MPs after he ran Labour's much acclaimed 1987 campaign.

Mr Gould's main task during the last parliament was to draw up the Labour party's "Fair Rates" alternative to the poll tax and council tax. He upset Mr Kinnock two years ago by rebelling against him on the eve of the party conference over the critical issue of defence spending.

Kinnock to quit, page 1
Peter Riddell, page 16
Historical view, page 16
Leading article, page 17

WHAT THEY SAID

It is clear that designer socialism packaged by the yuppie tendency in the Labour party is not a formula for success

— Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South

I'm delighted to have my own mandate. I think it is very important. I can now accept that the country have elected me in my own right to be prime minister

— John Major

There is in Labour circles some pride that they have worked with Neil Kinnock as he rebuilt the party in a process that will continue under his leadership

— shadow trade & industry spokesman Gordon Brown

I believe our vote would have been very substantially higher had it not been for the fear, the concern, that people had for the prospect of a Labour government

— Paddy Ashdown

I think Neil Kinnock will probably stand down quite soon. He has reached the summit of where he can take the British Labour party

— Glasgow Hillhead MP George Galloway

The whole party has moved too far to the right

— Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East

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Speech of triumph turns into epitaph

MICHAEL POWELL



Facing up to defeat: Neil and Glenys Kinnock arriving at the Labour party headquarters in Walworth Road yesterday morning

At the Kinnocks' home yesterday the blinds were drawn on private grief.

The dream is shattered but Neil Kinnock has been brave and dignified to the last, writes Alan Hamilton

IF personal tragedy is best inflicted away from the public gaze, the undoing of Neil Kinnock at least had the benefit of privacy at its beginning and its end. On those occasions during the night of his shattered dream that he had to confront the world, he did so with an admirable dignity in the face of overpowering disappointment.

His dismay must be measured by the scale of the task he set himself almost nine years ago, and which he truly believed he had achieved. No other opposition leader this century has had to pick up his party from such calamitous depths as the 1983 manifesto, the so-called longest suicide note in history, and remould it into an electable commodity. Gainskell may have struggled with Clause 4 after the 1959 defeat but his starting point was not nearly as deep in the electoral wilderness as was Mr Kinnock.

Yesterday was a far more bitter day for Mr Kinnock than the 1987 defeat. On that occasion the Labour leader, a man given to occasional wild swings of mood from heavenly elation to stygian gloom, hit his nadir of depression some 72 hours after Mrs Thatcher had walked back into Downing Street. He briefly considered throwing in the towel, but was saved by two thoughts: he knew that his task of reforming the party was at that stage only half-complete, and he knew that he could have another chance if he wanted it.

Such comforts cannot so effectively shield him now. His attitude will be that he did everything he possibly could, and he will be left with the gnawing doubt of whether

er Labour can ever be an electable force again, either if it sticks with its new design socialism or returns to old leftist roots.

On Thursday evening, buoyed by the inner conviction that an overall majority of 20 seats was possible, he retreated with his close entourage to a discreet country hotel deep in his Iswyn constituency. It was there that the first small harbingers of doubt came to perch on his shoulder, as the television disclosed early exit polls showing surprising support for Mr Major. Yet all was far from lost, and among early results there were some highly encouraging swings in Mr Kinnock's favour, in spite of the early disappointment of failing to take Basildon.

The following 90 minutes brought a gathering sense of doom. Yet the growing possibility of failure must have seemed the greater for being so unexpected. In many ways Mr Kinnock's confidence belied the scale of his task, for he still needed a bigger swing in his favour than that which brought Attlee his 1945 landslide.

By the time Mr Kinnock arrived for his own count at 1.20am, he had grown expressionless and impassive, ignoring the cameras. An increase of over 1,700 in his personal majority brought him no visible comfort.

He had prepared a speech of triumph but what he delivered had more of the flavour

than 200. It was a sad and flat end: he could not even find a working microphone to address the lingering faithful. He looked worn, disappointed and disillusioned, and his voice had lost almost all its confident timbre. But Mr Kinnock is a strong man, and he made a brief speech which in the circumstances was pointed, eloquent and courageous.

"I naturally feel a strong sense of disappointment, not so much for myself for I am fortunate, very fortunate, in my personal life. But I feel dismay, sorrow, for so many people in our country who do not share this personal good fortune, and who, as a result of further years of Tory government, will experience further disadvantage. They deserve better than they got on April 9, 1992."

He turned and went in. The challenge, which he had been constructing with painstaking dedication, bravery and single-mindedness since 1983, had ultimately failed. It is hard to see what more he could have done; he is unlikely to know himself.

Yesterday, at the Kinnocks' home in Ealing, west London, the blinds were drawn on private grief as they used to be in the days of the first world war when a family had lost a son, although later in the day the couple emerged to hold a barbecue. Mr Kinnock's last public word before he retired to sleep had been in response to a question about his future. It would, he said, be long and wonderful. His admirers, of whom there are a great many, will wish it so, but it may not be at the despatch box, even on the left-hand side of the House.

Electoral reform Decision beckons on PR option

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S leaders will debate whether to commit the party to reform of the voting system after its fourth consecutive election defeat.

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, made an impassioned appeal for change yesterday. He said that after this election the first-past-the-post system would have given Britain nearly 20 years of majority Tory government.

"If we had electoral reform as a basis for last night's results, then the probability is that by tonight Britain would have had a Labour/Liberal coalition. That is not what we are fighting for; it's not wonderful. But it's very much better than five years majority Conservative government. Labour must commit itself to PR."

Some of his shadow cabinet colleagues disagreed. One questioned whether reforming PR towards the end of the election had helped the campaign. Another said that to regard PR as a panacea that would suddenly put Labour in power was wrong. The priority must surely be to discover why Labour had not been trusted and to put it right. An internal debate about PR should not be allowed to get in the way of that.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, said: "We have made clear that there should be a debate about the principle of electoral reform.

representation. If Labour had won, it would have legislated for a form of PR for a Scottish parliament and a new strategic body for London. Labour's review, chaired by Professor Raymond Plant of Southampton University, will continue its work and make recommendations on the most appropriate voting systems for elections to the Com-

mons, the European parliament, assemblies for Wales and the English regions, the replacement for the Lords, and local government.

At that point, the leadership will have to grasp the nettle. It is a gamble: PR might be Labour's only hope of returning to power, but the party would be unlikely to govern on its own again.



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High street confidence

Traders hope end to uncertainty will bring spending spree

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was last night opening its wallet in readiness for a post-election spending boom as confidence flooded back to the High Street.

Travel agents, stores, car salesrooms, hotels and retail outlets of all kinds were expecting brisk trade as shoppers revived spending plans shelved during the run up to the election.

Telephone enquiries to travel agents increased sharply yesterday afternoon and, with good weather predicted for most of the country today, extra staff were being brought in by many shops to cope with an expected rise in demand.

"During the run up to the

election, holiday bookings dropped sharply," the Association of British Travel Agents said. "Now the uncertainty is over we can expect a return to stability and fully expect a very busy weekend as many people book for last minute Easter holidays and for summer packages."

In an effort to stimulate further the surge in demand, Thomson Holidays is cutting the price of 80,000 holidays by an average of £40 and British Airways Holidays is reducing the cost of two weeks to Kenya by £100 and its city breaks by £40.

P&O said that cruise bookings had slumped over recent weeks as potential customers held back for fear that they could have been badly affected under Labour's tax proposals. "Already we have had many more telephone enquiries and expect to turn these into bookings," P&O said.

Sir John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The Tory victory removes uncertainty and underscores the importance of continuing to keep inflation under tight control. It should boost consumer confidence, which is the key to bringing the recession to an end."

The Retail Motor Industry Federation is expecting increased sales of new and used cars. David Gent, the federation's director-general, said:

"The election result should stimulate the economy in general and the car market in particular."

"The removal of any threat of a hung parliament will increase buyer confidence from both the private and corporate sector. There must be considerable pent-up demand released by the results and the retail motor industry looks forward to a busy time in the coming months."

Peter Morgan, director-general of the Institute of Directors, said: "With the blight of political uncertainty removed, business can now get on with the task of pulling Britain out of recession."

Estate agents cheer

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE estate agents began telephoning yesterday morning after a night of euphoria, ringing their clients with the news of the Tory victory and the message "buy now".

Robin Paterson of Barnard Marcus said: "This is great news for the property market." Geoffrey van Curen of Savills exclaimed: "Three hearty cheers for John Major!" Stewart Baseley of Charles Church Homes said:

"Exactly the tonic the housebuilding market needs to lead the country out of recession."

For once, estate agency optimism was matched by the more sober conclusions of City property analysis. House prices could rise by about 5 per cent over the second half

of the year in the wake of the election victory. John Wriggworth, housing analyst from UBS Phillips & Drew, famed for his usually pessimistic predictions, said:

"The weight of political uncertainty has lifted," Mr Wriggworth said. He predicted that there would be more sales but said that prices would continue to fall by about 3 per cent until June, when prices would begin to pick up. "The falls won't abruptly stop but will slow. Then they will rise by about 1 per cent a month till the end of the year, leading to a 5 per cent rise by the end of the year, when prices will return to their levels at the start of the year." Prices in 1993 will rise by 6 per cent, he said.

Dozens more spilled onto the grass at Finsbury Circus Gardens in a wave of pinstriped suits and neatly pressed blouses. Many clucked glasses of champagne from the nearby Pavilion, a renowned City watering hole that had one of its busiest days for years.

Souness's joy at victory

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager who is recovering in hospital after heart surgery, telephoned John Major to congratulate him on the Tory victory. Mr Major was asleep and an aide took the message.

Gerry Ritchie, a friend, said of Souness: "He is looking very fit and chirpy." The football manager had a heart triple bypass operation four days ago.

Scots claim

A group of Scots wanting constitutional reform set out from Inverness yesterday to walk the 160 miles to Edinburgh. They plan to meet at the building once set aside for a Scottish parliament.

Gamble fails

Sheffield council, which set a budget £10 million higher than its treasurer advised in the belief that Labour would win the election, is faced with the task of making severe cuts in the wake of the Tory victory.

Garden meal

The Kinnock family had a barbecue of burgers, chicken and sausages with friends in the garden of their west London home yesterday evening after spending much of the day in seclusion.

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Josh was entirely responsible for getting me into good shape for A Fish Called Wanda. Training with him is always fun, even when it isn't...

So says John Cleese, who along with the

Duchess of York, benefited from the expertise of the world's top personal trainer, Josh Salzmann. For three weeks in The Sunday Times Josh will do the same for you.

Bodyfit starts tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine

Some won, some lost in campaign

Chris Patten Jennifer's mother (Mrs Bennett) votes Tory

The Central Office fax machine Youth over experience Share values

The secret of the ballot box

Seb Coe Glenda Jackson Mrs Thatcher ITN David Owen (he finally backed a winner) Soapbox makers The counting agents at Sunderland South Timothys and Asandas in Central Office Torbay (Best backdrop to returning officer) Pink, as worn by Norma Major Journalists assigned to Central Office (the party went on until dawn) David Mellor's grin Welsh nationalism Essex man Sports halls and leisure centres (unprecedented use of) Sid James (Tory supporter, according to The Sun's medium)

Coe: racing home Backdrop to returning officer) Pink, as worn by Norma Major Journalists assigned to Central Office (the party went on until dawn) David Mellor's grin Welsh nationalism Essex man Sports halls and leisure centres (unprecedented use of) Sid James (Tory supporter, according to The Sun's medium)

Rory Bremner's impersonation of Peter Snow Anglo-Scott Norman Lamont (his Budget "strategy" fooled everyone) Graduates of the university of life Racial tolerance in Ealing Southall The one-party system Boring campaigns Untactical voting

Bremner starts tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine

Chris Patten Jennifer's father (Mr Bennett) votes Labour Political pundits everywhere Richard Lambert, editor FT By-election victors Mori, Harris, NOP, Gallup, all exit polls

GALLUP GALLUP

Scotland nationalism BBC (again) PR (public relations and proportional representation) Sleep Peter Snow's Swingometer Jon Snow's tie Peter Kellner Peter Sissons The bookies Anyone called Peter, except Mandelson Ben Elton (least original excuse — blaming the press) Levitation Mediation Coalition Pink, as worn by Glenys Kinnock Des Wilson's complexion Whoever makes way for Chris Patten's by-election Journalists assigned to Walworth

Elton: no joke Road (the party never happened) The three-party system Gerry Adams Rosi Barnes John Cartwright Oratorical skills Scots Rory Bremner's impersonation of John Cole Tax inspectors Paul Boateng "We're a happy party tonight"



Happy day: Margaret Thatcher hails the Tories' "famous victory" outside her London home yesterday. "Full steam ahead," she urged her successor.

The City celebrates with champagne

Shares up and bubbly down

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE City toasted the Conservative victory in the way it knows best — with champagne, lots and lots of it. The London market's second biggest one-day rise sent prices through the roof, and dealers out to the nearest wine bar.

A huge overnight boost on the back of the victory sent the main index of leading shares, the FTSE 100, soaring 136.2 to close at 2572.6. A less-than-expected dip in the inflation rate, from 4.1 per cent to 4 per cent, was all but ignored in the euphoria.

Lunch began at 11.30 and lasted well into the afternoon as stockbrokers, solicitors and bankers cracked open bottle after bottle. Hundreds of workers sat in sunshine at Broadgate Circle, London's answer to the Rockefeller Center, in New York, and swapped tales of a long night in front of the television.

Dozens more spilled onto the grass at Finsbury Circus Gardens in a wave of pinstriped suits and neatly pressed blouses. Many clucked glasses of champagne from the nearby Pavilion, a renowned City watering hole that had one of its busiest days for years.

It was the 1980s all over again. "We've sold over a hundred bottles of these, and it's only quarter to two," said David Gilmour, owner of the Pavilion, pointing to empty bottles of Louis Roederer and Moët et Chandon. The bar had taken £3,000 in a little over two hours, and that was just from champagne.

Comet & Barrow, a popular bar overlooking the Circle, had to order emergency supplies of champagne to keep up with demand.

By 1pm, up to 600 people

had forced their way in, eager to capture the moment. City gents stood six-deep at the bar. Within two hours, 240 bottles of champagne worth up to £8,000 had been consumed. Another 120 bottles, worth £4,000, were sold at the Lloyd's of London branch.

Opinions were mixed. "We are fully behind Mr Major," a foreign exchange dealer from UBS Phillips & Drew said. A colleague shook her head in dismay. "We're probably stuck with the Conservatives for ever now," she sighed.

'Target the rich' policy backfires

To an economist, it al-

ways seemed that 1992 would be an excellent year to win an election. The economy is in such deep recession that it has nowhere to go but up. Economic recovery fizzled out last autumn partly because of the anxiety created by the election itself. With the political uncertainty now swept away far more definitively than anyone had expected, the engines of economic activity — personal consumption, house buying and industrial investment — should soon start to move.

The government's handling of the economy may have added a million people to the dole queues but it has also left a tempting legacy for the new parliament: low inflation, a credible commitment to a fixed exchange rate and plenty of workers and factories to be brought back into production use as demand picks up. The political and economic cycles are turning again in tandem, and if John Major needs to increase his majority or renew his mandate, he should find plenty of favourable opportunities to do so in the next few years.

The new government will still face plenty of pitfalls.

The world recession is not over and many exporting companies may be unable to cope with the strong pound in the long term. As a result, Britain may have to manage another big transition away from manufacturing industry towards services, and a further redistribution of wealth and income from the North to the South. As the 1996 deadline for European monetary union approaches, Mr Major could face a question that could yet destroy his majority. Will he commit himself to full-scale political as well as economic integration in a united states of Europe if this is the price the Germans demand for EMU to go ahead? Finally, it remains to be seen whether Mr Major's unexpected triumph makes him more or less willing to challenge the Treasury mandarins whose professional judgments proved economically disastrous, but were vindicated politically in the end.

Can generous social provision be reconciled with private wealth and moderate taxation? This is the question that Labour and Liberal Democrats must answer if they ever want to replace the Conservatives. They now have plenty of time to work on this conundrum.

Anatole Kaletsky shows why *Essex Man* joined forces with champagne socialists

unlikely to match the record of incompetence in the past five years. For Labour, therefore, the latest defeat could be even more decisive than the routs of 1983 and 1987. Had Labour presented a clear alternative to the deflationary monetary and exchange rate policies pursued since 1989 by Mr Major, it might have established itself as a party that offered secure job prospects, lower mortgage rates and rising incomes. Instead, it deliberately opted itself into the high interest rate deflation associated with the ERM.

Labour then magnified its error by building its whole economic strategy round higher taxes. Its new taxes were carefully calculated to affect only the "rich". This was the party's fatal error. Not only did the new taxes reinforce the party's austere anti-consumption image, even its careful targeting of the rich was a mistake.

Labour strategists decided that they could afford to alienate the champagne socialists of central London and the leafy suburbs, as long as they did not hurt Basildon Man. But they forgot about the aspirations of lower middle class voters. In trying to punish the rich, they lost the hearts of aspiring Basildon voters. And they forced the champagne socialists to vote Tory with their wallets, even if their hearts were with Labour or the Lib Dems.

Ken Livingstone, the left-wing firebrand from Brent, saw the truth at once: "We threw it away by watering down true socialism and scaring the voters with higher taxes at the same time."

Can generous social provision be reconciled with private wealth and moderate taxation? This is the question that Labour and Liberal Democrats must answer if they ever want to replace the Conservatives. They now have plenty of time to work on this conundrum.

A travesty of democracy

As usual, the number of Parliamentary seats won by each party in the Election bears little or no resemblance to their share of the popular vote.

Some parties are grossly over-represented, others iniquitously under-represented.

In other words all voters are equal but some are more equal than others.

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Campaign hits and misses

Over-the-top rally left Kinnock exposed

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

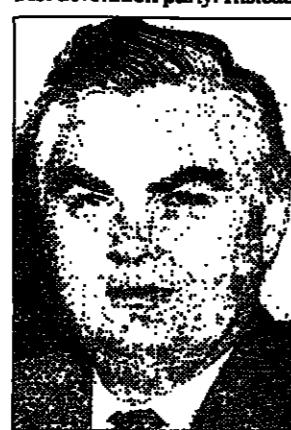
IN THE end it was the triumph of guts over glitz. John Major's success in winning an election most of those about him had given up for lost probably owes more to psychology than psephology. And if there was a key moment, some of his ministers believe that it came with Labour's over-the-top rally in Sheffield on what came to be known as Red Wednesday.

Labour's senior figures were convinced that they were on their way to government. They allowed the whole affair to reek with an air of triumphalism. The effect was compounded by the fact that a Mori poll in *The Times* that morning had given Labour a seven-point lead and the City markets had picked up their skirts and run.

Suddenly the electorate began to take seriously the prospect of a Labour government. That element of Neil Kinnock's personality which has always grated with floating voters was emphasised and those who had something to lose under a Labour government began to think twice about continuing to punish the Tories for their errors over the poll tax and their management of the economy. The Conservatives had their chance and used it.

The history of the Conservative campaign, which was subjected to great criticism, is now being rewritten in the light of the 21-seat Tory majority. Mr Major and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, knew that they faced a daunting task. They were trying in a sophisticated democracy to arrest the natural swing of the pendulum, against the background of a recession which had hit hardest many of the people the Tories liked to call their own. Mr Patten and the Tory admiring were eventually proved right in believing that the strongest fine of all for them was the oft-repeated slogan "You can't trust Labour".

The Tory leadership decided to run several risks. First was a largely negative campaign based on highlighting the fears about Labour's likely tax burden and on contrasting the experience and ap-



Lamont: trained fire on Labour tax proposals

He played the union card for all it was worth, insisting that any concession to devolution would threaten the strength of the whole United Kingdom.

Labour's strategy, by contrast, was a safety-first one of leaving the government to lose the election. Labour's press conferences were polished, drilled and regimented, with supplementary questions ruthlessly ruled out. The aim was to drive to the top of the agenda the Liberal Democrat vote would crumble in the final week and hand the Tories their victory.

He was right. And it only adds to his new authority that Mr Major owes few other people (although they include Michael Heseltine, Chris Patten and Douglas Hurd) for that victory. He took the risks and he has won the prize.

Approach of Mr Major and Mr Kinnock, an already proven election fighter.

Secondly, against the background of a stack of opinion polls suggesting that a hung parliament was likely, the prime minister decided on an all or nothing strategy. He insisted on every opportunity that he would do no deals and would not contemplate proportional representation.

Thirdly, despite the urgings of many within his own party that it was time for a concession to the rising tide for Scottish devolution, he and his advisers took the view that there was nothing for the Tories in being the fourth best devolution party. Instead

they tackled head-on fears about their taxation policies with the much-publicised "shadow budget" by the canary and comforting John Smith, a man on whom no interviewer ever laid a glove.

Mr Major told friends that Mr Smith's shadow budget had presented the Tories with the election by hitting the middle classes with unexpected savagery. But voters, the vast majority of them earning less than £22,000 a year and ending as net gainers under Mr Smith's carefully drawn plans, reacted well. After several days the Tories had to focus instead on the claimed impact on lower-earning taxpayers of implementing Labour's manifesto promises.

Then the two major parties blew the health issue over "Jennifer's ear". Labour revealed a class split and the Tories were caught out feeding material to the tabloid press. Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats stayed out of the whole affair and won brown points from a disputed public.

The Liberal Democrats

confronted the wasted vote argument. They picked up more moral brownie points by promising to increase income tax by 1p to pay for an improved education system. The party's reward was to see its issues of proportional representation and the constitution raised to the top of the agenda. Suddenly the Tories were fighting on two flanks.

Those who claim to have espied the seeds of Tory victory in all this are less than honest. Virtually every journalist covering the daily press conference, this one included, believed that Labour was well ahead on campaign points. But I do recall his close colleagues telling me of Mr Major's belief at the start of the campaign that the Liberal Democrat vote would crumble in the final week and hand the Tories their victory.

As the press criticism of the campaign intensified, some of the youngsters came close to cracking under the strain. You could spot them a mile off. Bags under their eyes. Pallid skin. They used to catnap at their desks in central office during any mid-after-



Window on the world: celebrating Tory supporters share their delight at central office early yesterday

Smith Square brat pack has last laugh

CHRIS Patten's babies came of age yesterday. The youthful campaign team at Conservative Central Office, dubbed the "brat pack" by older and more experienced colleagues, at last had something to smile about.

Having been blamed for the Tories' lacklustre campaign, they felt vindicated as they opened yet another bottle of champagne at Conservative party headquarters. "The brat pack hits back," David Cameron, aged 25, an Old Etonian and one of the powers behind the throne at Smith Square, said. Mr Cameron, who briefed John Major and the party chairman twice a day, says: "Whatever people say about us, we got the campaign right. Otherwise we would not have won."

As the press criticism of the campaign intensified, some of the youngsters came close to cracking under the strain. You could spot them a mile off. Bags under their eyes. Pallid skin. They used to catnap at their desks in central office during any mid-after-

noon lull in proceedings. Mr Cameron says: "Not being battle-hardened veterans, we had to learn to take the flak on the chin. But after the first two weeks we just got our heads down and decided to listen to what we were being told by our workers on the ground rather than the opinion pollsters, and especially newspaper reporters."

As the results came in, Mr Cameron and his colleagues could not contain their enthusiasm. Mr Cameron led the young Turks, including Steve Hilton, aged 22, the link man to Saatchi & Saatchi, and Alex Aitken, aged 24, another key lieutenant, across Smith Square to chant and jeer outside Transport House, one of the frequent targets of their campaign.

Mr Hilton, who was not old enough to vote at the last election, was so excited when he voted on Thursday that he rang Mr Cameron from the polling booth, on the inevitable mobile telephone, to say: "I have done it. I have finally voted. They can't write that about me in the papers any more."

Shaun Woodward, aged 33, the central office communications director, who came to politics from Esther Rantzen's *That's Life* programme only 15 months ago, said that the Tories won because of, not in spite of, the campaign. The youth policy he had implemented for Mr Patten had worked. "Labour's campaign was praised, but they lost. Our campaign was criticised and we won. It speaks for itself," Mr Woodward said. He was reduced to tears by the defeat of Mr Patten. That could, a

cynic might say, have been because the man who employed him may not be there to protect him when the inquiry into the campaign begins. "I am certainly not clearing my desk," Mr Woodward said. "We won."

However, Mr Woodward and Andrew Lansley, aged 35, head of the research department, who became an increasingly isolated figure as central office as the campaign progressed, are already considering their future. Members of the brat pack, who yesterday were hoping to become known as "campaign veterans", may also be tempted by richer pickings in the private sector.

Despite the result, they know they have made enemies at Smith Square, especially among the more experienced apparatchiks who felt they were not used properly during the campaign. But it could just be that the young guns, which were accused of not firing properly only a few days ago, could still be calling the shots for a long time to come.

Tory chairman's future

Patten may wait in the wings

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE champagne corks at last fell silent at Conservative Central Office yesterday, one man had already slipped away from the party to ponder his future. Chris Patten had won the war only to lose his private battle with the Liberal Democrats in Bath.

The defeat of the Tory party chairman was one of the few clouds on John Major's horizon yesterday as he settled down to complete his cabinet reshuffle. The two men are not close personal friends - Mr Patten prefers opera to soccer - but they have a strong regard for one another and the Tory chairman's written record beyond the mechanics of campaign planning.

He is the closest thing to a philosopher king in the ideology-free zone Mr Major is creating around him at Downing Street and his elegant pen and intellectual flair will be missed at the cabinet table.

Defeat at the hands of Donald Foster, a management consultant aged 45, came as little surprise to Mr Patten. The centre party flooded his constituency with volunteers drawn from all parts of the country. More than a week ago he was conceding privately that his 1,412 majority would not be enough to save him. Well before the result was announced early yesterday

he telephoned his senior staff at central office to tell them he had lost by at least 2,000 votes.

His colleagues were consoled yesterday by speculation about the fate of their fallen leader. The most likely outcome is that Mr Patten will stay on as Tory chairman for next month's local government elections and step down at the party conference in the autumn. Mr Major wants him back in the cabinet as soon as possible, but he could be reluctant to resort to the obvious device of sending one of his backbenchers to the Lords and holding a by-election.

The electorate has a history of punishing governments that employ such ruses to protect their own.

Senior party sources suggested yesterday that Mr Patten could be exiled from frontline politics for the next four years while he found a safe seat or waited for a boundary review in Bath to perhaps enhance his chance of a successful comeback.

The upshot is likely to be a new Tory chairman by the autumn. With the party back in power and central office on a care and maintenance basis for the next couple of years, Mr Major may follow recent precedent and choose to stand down at the end of his term of office. Another possibility is a return to the colours for Jeffrey Archer. The names of Sir Norman Fowler and David Mellor have also been linked with Smith Square.

Lack of money will be the main hurdle facing the incoming chairman. The Conservatives went into the campaign with an overdraft of about £10 million and an election war chest of around £20 million. In spite of the closeness of the campaign, not all this money was spent, mainly because Mr Patten and Mr Major staved away from a 1987-style newspaper advertising blitz in the last week. Money also poured into central office during the campaign. However, as staffing numbers fall back from their campaign peak of 500 full-timers and volunteers to about 150 permanent staff, the new chairman will have to try to balance the books.

Had the Tories lost the election, Shaun Woodward, the director of communications and the party's chief link with Saatchi, its advertising agency, would have been one of the scapegoats. Victory has changed all that and Mr Woodward emerges with his reputation enhanced. He would like to be an MP and he will probably remain at central office for the time being while he casts around for a promising seat.

Lib Dems

Leaders put blame on scare stories

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats were the victims of the unelectability of Labour, Paddy Ashdown said yesterday as he came to terms with his party's failure to make a breakthrough in the election. As voters returned 20 Liberal Democrat MPs, Mr Ashdown and Des Wilson, his campaign director, blamed the last-minute defection of many supporters into the Tory camp on "scare stories" that a vote for the Lib Dems would put Neil Kinnock in Downing Street.

The party's way ahead will be subjected to intense scrutiny in the coming weeks in the wake of the double blow of the poor result and the Conservative's outright majority, eliminating the prospect of Mr Ashdown being a power-broker in a hung parliament.

The Liberal Democrat leader fought hard yesterday to mask his despair at the loss of six seats behind delight at snatching the prizes of Bath (Don Foster), Cheltenham (Nigel Jones), North Devon (Nick Harvey) and North Cornwall (Paul Tyler) from the Tories, as well as Liz Lynne's success in fending off the Labour threat and succeeding Sir Cyril Smith in Rochdale.

He argued that Labour had proved it could not win under the first-past-the-post system and must now join the Lib Dems in embracing proportional representation. Under PR, the Liberal Democrats would have had 108 seats in the new parliament, he said. "The Labour party has once again found that it cannot beat the Conservatives even in the pit of a recession and after the poll tax. The election result confirms that the first-past-the-post system cheats voters out of what they want."

Mr Ashdown refused to speculate on his future strategy or the prospect of drawing up a pact with Labour not to challenge each other in elections. The idea of some sort of coalition between the two parties is expected to be mulled over in the months ahead.

The party's strategy of concentrating its fire on a few constituencies appears to have backfired. The Lib Dems won few of the seats of the "hit list", where their limited resources were focused and candidates in other seats were left almost devoid of support.

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Culture stake claims to seat of power

ALREADY dubbed the ministry of fun, the newest government department's chief might be the Secretary of State for Heritage, Arts, Media and Sport - Hams.

Civil servants in the Office of Arts and Libraries are toying with the notion of working in Bars (Broadcasting, Arts, Recreation and Sport) or being Bars (Broadcasting, Arts, Tourism and Sport).

Whatever its name, the promised department will amount to the most powerful cultural ministry in the world, taking in not only arts and broadcasting but sport, heritage, tourism, film and control of a national lottery that the government has promised to introduce in 1994.

From the lottery would come a mil-

lion publishing and films, plus a large civil service back-up, although details have not yet been spelt out.

Tim Renton, arts minister, is unlikely to carry the arts portfolio through to the cabinet. Top of the list of possible fun ministers is David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, who previously served as arts minister for a few months.

Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, could be a candidate. He is an author and the editor of a book of verse. If the prime minister wants to bring a woman into the cabinet, Virginia Bottomley could win the promotion many say she deserves. However, some say Alan Howarth, co-author of the Conservative policy document on the arts, might well be Mr Fun.

Verdict on forecasts

Voters made fools of pollsters and pundits

BY IVOR CREWE

THE election made fools of the polls, and the pundits and politicians who depend on them. Four forecast polls were published on election day. NOP and Mori put Labour slightly ahead, by 3 and 1 points respectively; ICM placed them level-pegsing, and only Gallup reported the Conservatives ahead, but by a half point. In reality the Conservative lead was 5 points.

The average of the four polls was Conservative 38, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 19; in the event, the result was Conservative 41, Labour 36, Lib Dems 18.

Separate polls in Scotland fared equally badly. The two polls conducted closest to the election — System 3 for *The Scotsman* and ICM for *The Herald* — averaged out at Conservative 22, Labour 41, Lib Dem 12, SNP 25. The actual vote was Conservative 26, Labour 39, Lib Dem 13, SNP 21. Just as in Britain as a whole, there was a 3 per cent swing from Labour to Conservative between the final polls and the real result.

The polling business was saved by the Harris exit poll for ITN which put the parties on Conservatives 41, Labour 37, Lib Dems 18. But this poll's accuracy went largely unnoticed because ITN's seats forecast of Conservative 305, Labour 294 proved incorrect. Had ITN relied on the national uniform swing assumption, it would have forecast a Conservative overall majority of 16 (334 seats to Labour's 267) and would have been almost spot on. By assuming variations of swing across regions and between safe versus marginal seats it underestimated the scale of the Conservative victory.

BBC television commissioned an exit poll of marginal seats and did not announce a national share of the vote. But it said that the national swing was between 5 and 6 per cent when in fact it was between 2 and 3 per cent. An ICM exit poll for *Today* was even wider of the mark, giving

Labour a 3 per cent lead. The 1992 election is the worst disaster the pollsters have suffered since 1970, when four out of five polls wrongly predicted a Labour win. But in some ways it is even more serious. In 1970, the error was attributed to the fact that the polls completed their interviewing three days before polling. Since then, pollsters have continued interviewing until the late afternoon before polling day.

The pollsters will be re-interviewing their respondents this weekend. A variety of speculative explanations will be offered, but none of them is self-evidently true. The pollsters cannot pin the blame on margin of error.

While it is true that each forecast poll was subject to a

**Ivor Crewe
says the
pollsters have
to think
again**

plus/minus 3 per cent margin of error for each party, the chances of four polls being out by that much for both the Conservative and Labour parties is about 160,000-1.

Now was sample size the problem. The size of the forecast polls was double the normal and the same as that for previous elections, when forecasts have been accurate. The misleading BBC exit poll had a sample size of 14,000.

There was evidently a very late but significant swing to the Conservatives. Some of this surge came from the unusually large proportion of "don't knows" (which the pollsters had noted in the media) but some must have come from wavering Liberal Democrats and Labour supporters. The polls asked the undecided and the wavers which party they leaned towards but got misleading an-

swers suggesting that the Liberal Democrats would be the main beneficiaries of any last-minute switching. One urgent area of investigation for the pollsters will be the measurement of indecision and of potential support for other parties.

Some pollsters have claimed that the tax issue, or the parties' general economic competence or Neil Kinnock's qualification to be prime minister swayed voters at the last minute. But the polls recorded a small and narrowing gap between the Conservative and Labour parties on all three items.

Another difficulty for the pollsters is that forecasting can be a self-denying prophecy. The Conservatives began to recover immediately after Black Wednesday's poll, which pointed to an overall Labour majority. This may have frightened wavers back into the Tory fold. Thereafter poll after poll pointed to a hung parliament. Independent polling evidence suggests that voters decided in increasing numbers over the last week that they preferred a decisive result.

The final puzzle is that, whatever its cause, the late swing should of been picked up by the election day exit polls, yet of the three only the Harris/ITN poll got the result right.

Exit polling faces two problems. One is how to ensure a representative sample of polling stations when there is little independent data about the composition of polling districts. The other is how to deal with those who refuse to say how they voted. They are concentrated among the elderly and women, who tend to be Conservative, but it is tricky to know how far to adjust for that. The pollsters will have to think afresh about such problems.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex

Bob Worcester,
election supplement, page IX

BBC wins ratings war but ITN first on results

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional winner of the election night television ratings battle has again proved to be the loser in the race to report the results. The BBC attracted millions more viewers than Independent Television News but those who stayed to ITN were told most voting figures first.

From the moment that the BBC's Kate Adie was left giggling in Torbay as ITN broadcast the only live pictures of the first result from Sunderland South, ITN was relentless, reporting 80 per cent of the results before the BBC.

Not only was ITN first to forecast an overall majority for the Conservatives early yesterday but it beat the BBC by 30 minutes to confirm its forecast before noon yesterday.

ITN reported that the Tories had secured the magic number of 326 seats at 11.56am but the BBC felt unable to report the news until 12.26pm. By the time 621 seats were declared just after 4am, ITN had been first with 494 results and the BBC with 127.

But the BBC, whose spectacular set with neon swingometer and huge screens far outshone the small ITN studio from which Jon Snow and Alastair Stewart relayed the results, boasted that it had not broadcast "a single false result". ITN gave three incorrect results, in North Devon, Medway and Newham North West.

ITN announced results in 12 constituencies hours before the counting had stopped, and in Wolverhampton before all the ballot boxes had been opened. Most embarrassingly, ITN reported that Tony Banks, the Labour MP, had lost his Newham seat when he had retained it with a 10,000 majority. Tony Hall, director



Anchor man: David Dimbleby, who headed the BBC's team of pundits

of BBC news and current affairs, said: "The BBC could not afford to make the mistakes ITN has made. Our forecasts and our reporting moved more slowly because it was important that we got it right. And we did."

David Mannion, editor of ITN bulletins on ITV, said: "These were minuscule errors brought about by someone pushing the wrong button. The BBC's errors

were far more significant: no outside broadcasting unit at Sunderland and a failure to realise the significance of the Basildon result. That was the moment signs of relief could be heard in Central Office. We recognised it and changed our forecasts."

BBC pundits were criticised for remaining too loyal to the NOP exit poll when forecasting the likely outcome as the night wore on. John Cole, the political edi-

tor, seemed unable to believe a Tory majority was possible until it had happened. But Mr Hall insisted that the pundits around David Dimbleby's table "subtly steered viewers clearly towards the result through the night".

The BBC's £20,000 16ft swingometer was put to little use. The swings to Labour were so small and so erratic that Peter Snow was forced to use more conventional graphics.

Exit polls lead TV down false trail

BY MARY ANN SIEGHART

AFTER the BBC's exit poll in 1987 wildly underestimated the Conservative share of the vote, the corporation swore that such a mistake would never happen again.

The BBC conducted one of the biggest post-mortems in its history and the 1992 poll was designed to avoid the mistakes of its predecessor. Yet still, at 10pm on Thursday night, the BBC was predicting that the Tories would be 25 seats short of a parliamentary majority. The Conservatives ended with a majority of 21. Harris's poll for ITN projected the Tories 21 seats short.

The exit poll errors explain why both TV stations, for the first hour or two, continued to predict a hung parliament, despite the evidence of the votes coming in. Most of the early results showed a much smaller swing to Labour than the exit polls, suggesting a Tory majority, but the effect of the exit polls acted as a drag on the computer predictions.

Why did not the TV pundits look at the results coming in from the constituencies and realise that their own polls might have been wrong? Were they simply too timid?

The opinion polls published by newspapers on polling day seemed to vindicate the television findings. The early results did have a few wild variations in the amounts of swing. When the Conservatives held Basildon, a marginal that Labour should have won, warning bells should have rung. Yet Pendle, at roughly the same time, showed a swing to Labour of 4.5 per cent, closer to the BBC's prediction of a 6 per cent swing and enough if repeated nationally to deprive the Tories of their majority.

But most important, both stations had made a large financial and thus psychological commitment to their polls.

ITN, for instance, spent more than £100,000 and employed about 1,000 people.

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Jed

Scottish backlash**MP demands action to disrupt Commons**

By KERRY GILL

LABOUR'S frustration at failing to win power at Westminster last night boiled over in Scotland with calls from prominent party members and MPs for civil disobedience and deals with the Scottish National Party to form an anti-Tory coalition.

George Galloway, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, spoke of "superdoomsday" with squabbling between opposition parties allowing the Tories to improve in spite of a lack of popular support. "The Tories and their friends are laughing all the way to the bank at the disunity in Scotland," he said. "We must extend the hand of friendship to the SNP. We must unite the anti-Conservative forces in Scotland."

"Three out of four Scots have rejected the Tories again. We need a patriotic front of all the parties who are against them. If we mobilise we can disrupt Parliament."

A resurgence of Scottish Labour Action, the pro-nationalist pressure group that opposed the poll tax, is expected. John McAllion, MP for Dundee East, said that playing by Westminster rules was no longer an option for Labour in Scotland, which had been left powerless yet holding 49 seats compared with the Tories' 11.

Mr McAllion said that the Scottish Constitutional Convention, first convened three years ago to discuss a devolu-

tion package but boycotted by the SNP, should be used as the vehicle to unite all opposition parties demanding constitutional change.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, said he hoped that the nationalists would join in the convention. "If the SNP is serious about wanting to work with Scotland then they will compromise," he said.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "The Labour party have conned the Scottish people for the fourth time in a row. They promised what would deliver a Scottish parliament in a tick. That is now exposed as a fraudulent prospectus. Instead they have delivered Scotland into the hands of a fourth English Tory government."

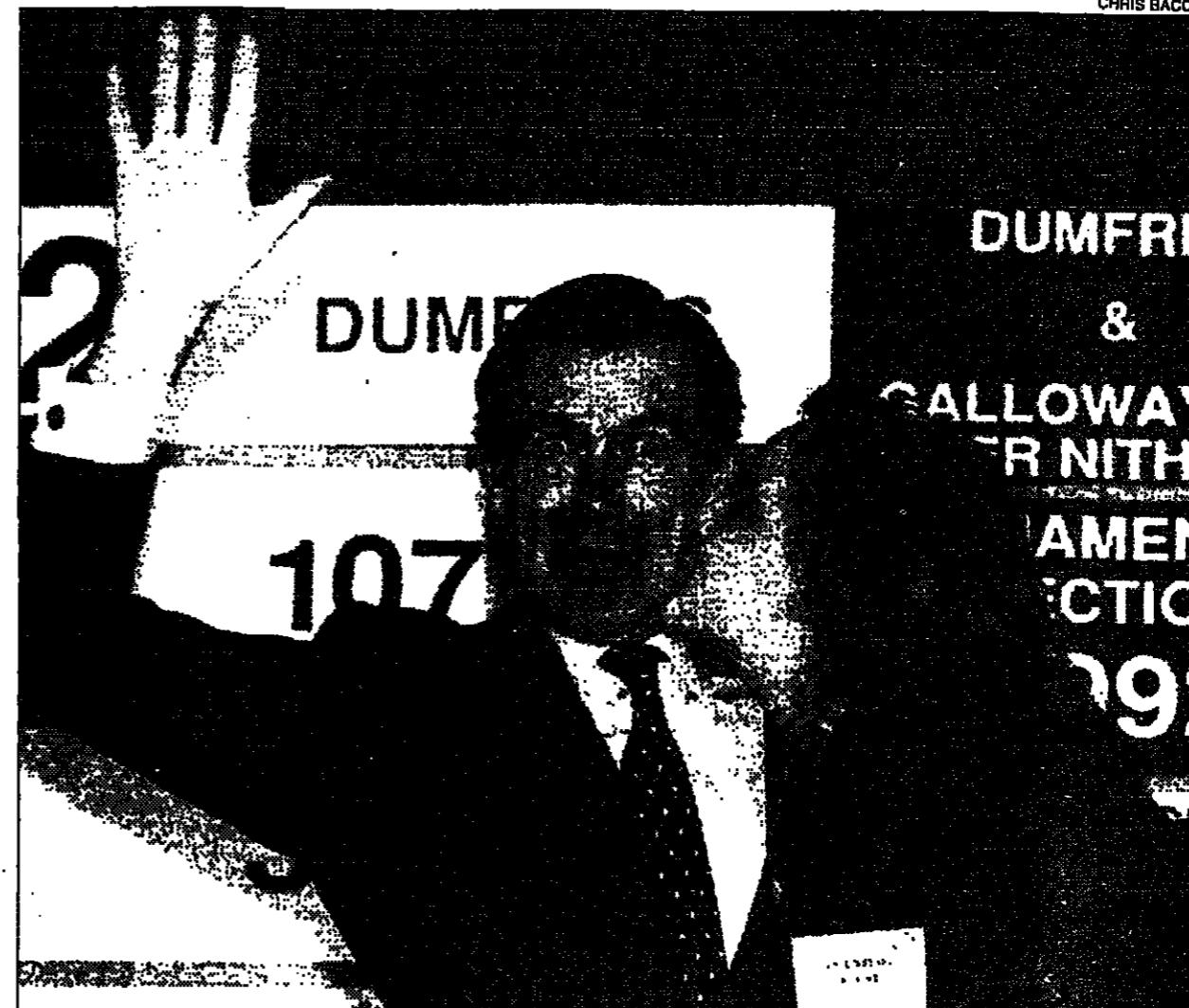
Yesterday, the Scottish Tories were describing their 11 seats as a victory, although five years ago they conceded that their achievement then of ten seats was a disaster. For Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, a meagre success was enough. He had spent four weeks contemplating the most ignominious defeat for his party in Scotland.

Mr Lang, who held his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale seat against the odds, said that the Tories had profited from their concentration on the perils of constitutional change, whether devolution or independence. A quarter of Scots who voted had under-

stood that both options would lead to the end of the union.

He did not rule out a referendum on constitutional change, but any change would have to be based on Scotland remaining in the union. "I am enormously pleased about the political message put across by the people of Scotland. They made it clear that they don't accept the cause of nationalism."

The nationalists will meet today in Perth to discuss tactics for the district elections on May 7. They have not ruled out civil disobedience. Mr Salmond said: "I don't want to pre-empt any other strategy before taking it to the national executive committee. But the one thing that is clear here is that this election has been the second best performance in the SNP's history, but our share of the vote translates into a few seats and that represents deep frustration, anger, disappointment and despair."



Sealed with a kiss: Ian Lang, Scottish secretary and winner in his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency, being congratulated by his daughter Venetia as the result was announced yesterday

All Greens lose their depositsBy MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE election was calamitous for the Green party, which saw its share of the vote drop to 1.3 per cent, lower than in 1987 when environmental concern had not become established as a mainstream political issue.

The £450,000 the party spent on promoting 254 candidates proved futile: all lost their deposits. The Greens' highest poll was 2,005 for Sue Atkinson in Stroud, Gloucestershire, their local government stronghold, and their largest percentage was 3.75 for Chris Ashby in Islington North, London.

The party's 15 per cent share of the vote in the 1989 European elections now seems to have been very much a fluke. It appears to be marginalised beyond recovery. The party was squeezed by two factors: tactical voting for and against the government, and the disappearance of the environment as an issue on the doorstep. "We are very disappointed," Sara Parkin, chairman of the party's executive, said last night.

Northern Ireland

Tactical voting by Protestants helps oust Adams

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE cause of militant republicanism has suffered a big setback with the defeat of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president in West Belfast.

The seat was taken at the third attempt by Joe Hendron, of the SDLP, who said that his victory represented a rejection of the violence of the paramilitary groups. "We will

not put guns in their hands," Dr Hendron said during his victory speech at Belfast city hall. "We will not encourage them to join paramilitary organisations like UVF, UDA and Provisional IRA. I want to work for peace, my party wants to work for peace and I acknowledge all of those magnificent people of West Belfast of both communities who have supported me..."

Dr Hendron managed to overturn Mr Adams's 2,221 majority by increasing his own vote by nearly 3,000, achieving a majority of just 589 votes. It was clear that the decisive factor was unexpected tactical voting by members of the minority Protestant community on Shankill Road who opted for Dr Hendron to help to remove Mr Adams. Fred Cobain, their own Unionist candidate, a former Belfast lord mayor, polled almost exactly 3,000 fewer than his predecessor in 1987.

The fact that Dr Hendron was able to bring out the Protestant vote undercuts to some extent the long-term significance of Mr Adams's defeat. As Sinn Fein argued yesterday, there seemed little evidence that republican voters had turned away from Sinn Fein, an eventuality that would have been a far more damaging commentary on their recent record and indeed their future prospects, than the decision by some Protestants to vote tactically against them. Mr Adams's vote, at 16,826, dropped by only 36, allowing the party to say that it retained a clear majority for its pro-IRA position among the constituency's overwhelmingly Roman Catholic community.

Notwithstanding the details, however, even Sinn Fein was prepared to admit that the defeat will hurt it on the international stage, in terms of party morale and in its ability to pursue a parallel political track to the IRA campaign.

Richard McCauley, the party's main spokesman in Northern Ireland, summed it up: "It would be foolish to say this is not a blow — of course it is. I don't think it is possible at this stage to estimate the likely long-term damage. My own view is that it will turn out not to be the damaging or disastrous blow that some sections of the media and the British government would like, simply because we know the Sinn Fein vote in West Belfast is in a position of absolute supremacy over the SDLP." He added that Dr Hendron had merely "borrowed" the seat for a while and that Sinn Fein would seize it back at the first opportunity.

Bookies give odds on future

By LOUISE HIDALGO

BOOKMAKERS opened accounts yesterday on the outcome of the next election, undeterred by the losses some recorded after a last-minute surge in polling day betting had brought the Conservatives' odds on winning the election tumbling to 6-5.

Punters across the country were tallying their gains and losses after one of the most feverish finishes in political betting history. A record £250,000 was taken in 12 hours.

In Brighton, a restauranteur faced a loss of £18,000, wagered on a Labour win, while a man from London was celebrating the largest recorded win, of £75,000, after placing £20,000 on the Conservatives to gain an overall majority at odds of 11-4 against. Graham Sharpe of William Hill said: "If there is a lesson to learn from this election, it is not to pay too much attention to the opinion polls when placing bets."

Sunderland South overcame odds of 50-1 to emerge as champion of the constituency race to announce the first results, ousting the three-time holder of the title, Torbay. Only one £1 bet had been placed on the winner.

John Major's tenure at Number 10 looked doubly secure as William Hill announced even money on his remaining there until the turn of the century.

The favourite to lead the Labour party into the next electoral battle was John Smith, the shadow chancellor. The odds on Neil Kinnock's fighting his third election as leader were 3-1.

The craziest bet bookmakers said, was the £11,000 placed by a punter in Southend on Glenda Jackson, the odds-on favourite to take the London seat of Hampstead and Highgate. His winnings were £525.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS
HOLIDAYS



Among the new intake striving to bring balance to parliament: Liz Lynne (Liberal Democrat), Judith Chaplin (Conservative), Anne Campbell (Labour) and Bridget Prentice (Labour)

Far outweighed, but ...

More women than ever in Commons

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE will be more women at Westminster than ever before when the House of Commons returns this month. They will total 59, 16 more than at the end of the last parliament. There will be at least one woman in John Major's new cabinet.

Parliament will contain 36 women Labour MPs, 20 Tories, two Liberal Democrats, and Margaret Ewing as parliamentary leader of the SNP.

But the House is still a long way from being representative. Despite John Major's endorsement of Opportunity 2000, the initiative to give women a higher profile in parliament and the professions, only six female candidates were chosen to contest the 56 safe seats vacated by retiring Tory MPs. All six had comfortable majorities.

Judith Chaplin, who has already climbed the political ladder, took over from Sir Michael McNair-Wilson in Newbury with a majority of

over 12,000. Mrs Chaplin is tipped to become the first female Chancellor, and was special adviser to both Nigel Lawson and John Major at the Treasury. She went on to advise Mr Major at No 10 and he is known to think highly of her.

The Liberal Democrats had most women candidates; Liz Lynne takes over from Sir Cyril Smith in Rochdale. An actress and speech consultant who has been known to give Paddy Ashdown last-minute advice on technique, she has had a part in *The Mousetrap* and appeared in a BBC television play.

She will be joined by Glenda Jackson, an actress whose name always ensured a high-profile campaign. Thirty years into her career, the daughter of a Birkenhead bricklayer has now landed a part at Westminster. Her victory for Labour in Hampstead and Highgate was never certain. Another new

comer is Anne Campbell, a statistician at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, who won Tory Cambridge for Labour with a majority of 580.

Front runners for a cabinet post include the Treasury minister, Gillian Shepherd (Norfolk SW), the health minister, Virginia Bottomley (Surrey SW), and the Home Office minister, Angela Rumbold, who held Mitcham and Morden.

The chances of Dame Janet Fookes becoming the first woman Speaker may have been set back by the big swing to Labour in Plymouth Drake. Parties have traditionally avoided Speakers representing marginal seats.

Two Tory husband and wife teams, Peter and Virginia Bottomley and Nicholas and Ann Winterton, have been joined by Gordon and Bridget Prentice, who gained Pendle and Lewisham East respectively for Labour.

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Distraught world of the defeated

Defeated politicians are in a delicate condition and will be for months to come. Rejection is a cruel experience. (Those who have been unwillingly divorced will tell you it is worse than the death of the loved one.)

With the next election five years away, a whole generation of decent and clever men and women wake to the stark reality of devoting nearly two decades of their lifetime to the frustrations of the party in opposition.

For those of a certain age, there will be no more opportunity after the one they have just missed. True, once you are on the topmost rung in politics you can go on and on (though not evermore as the redoubtable Margaret Thatcher discovered). But it is a different story when you are out of government and must make a fresh launch from the ground. Then the tick tock of the clock has a

The defeated wake to discover they are drained of energy — which means they are severely depressed physically, mentally, emotionally. During the drawn-out campaign, politicians were charging around endlessly.

One moment assisted by an army of civil servants. Next moment nothing. Susan Croslan on a sudden trauma.

working hours which would land most of us in hospital. Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, frantically trying to hold his marginal seat, was said to be getting only three hours' sleep a night. This is only possible when nature's magic hormone surges during the other 21 hours.

For today's winners the adrenaline will keep surging, positively whizzing about when they return to Westminster and ministerial office. Whether this hyperactive excitability, like children at a birthday party, is suited to making instant long-term decisions is another story. My point is they feel great. The losers feel dreadful in every possible way.

I married Tony Crosland a few months before Labour came into government in 1964. He had been foreign secretary for just ten months when a cerebral haemorrhage killed him in 1977. During those 13 years, my only experience of electoral

defeat was when Ted Heath and the Tories against expectation, won in 1970. So I can speak only for the fall from office, not for the failure to attain it in the first place.

In Grimsby town hall that night, while the Labour candidate's vote piled up, the word spread that in the rest of the country the Tories were pulling ahead. After Tony's victory speech of thanks to his supporters, we went back with friends to watch the other results come in on the television screen, and after a while I went over and sat on the arm of his chair as, mesmerised, he watched the evidence that Labour was out. When the alarm went off in our bedroom a few hours later, he remained dead asleep. I looked at him lying face down, one arm

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Because he was stoical and (mostly) good-humoured, I did not fully grasp what a hell of an

adjustment he had to make. One moment assisted by an army of civil servants (and do not underestimate the practical and psychological importance of the car and driver), the next moment nothing. When I bumped into a psychiatrist friend after Labour's defeat, he asked: "How's Tony taking it?" "He's begun a new book on socialism today. He's fine," I said cheerfully. The man looked at me with puzzlement. "I don't think you realise," he said, "how long internal suffering continues after that kind of unexpected defeat. It's like a sudden bereavement."

A few of the defeated are the exception to the above. They are the Labour MPs now preparing for the end of Neil Kinnock's leadership. Labour does these things with a dignity brutally denied Margaret Thatcher. None the less, when those Labour MPs who could be the new leader or one of his lieutenants saw their party failing in the voting booth, the magic hormone surged afresh for the leadership struggle ahead. They alone among the defeated are not drained of energy today.

Norma gets back to the ironing

BY LIN JENKINS

WITH a glass of champagne in her hand, Norma Major toasted her husband's victory and the success of her own small wager on the election outcome.

Choosing to leave her husband to the euphoria in London and the task of preparing for government, she took his place in the constituency and joined celebrations at the Huntingdon Conservative headquarters. Reassuring her son James, aged 17, that he would not get into trouble for joining her in a glass since the party was private, she spoke of her enjoyment of the hectic weeks of campaigning and the yearning now to return to the mundane demands of running the family home.

She said: "I am going to do the shopping, washing and ironing — all the naff things that need to be done. I need to get my life sorted out a bit. Things have just got a bit out of hand in the last three weeks, well not just the last three weeks, the last 16 months really."

With the uncertainty over and the future at Number 10 assured, Mrs Major felt sure that their family life would settle into a routine. "I think it will be a bit easier now. We can really settle in. It's not going to change the way we live. We will still be coming home here. This is still our home."

Mrs Major said that she had never doubted that her husband would return to power and disclosed that she had put a bet on a Tory victory. She declined to reveal the size of the stake.

The weeks in the limelight at her husband's side had been stimulating, but the high profile of a party leader's wife was not a role she relished, nor intended to embrace fully. "I'm pretty tired," she admitted as the photographers gathered to record her watching the final results trickling through on the television. "I thought I'd finished with photo calls. I think we deserve a break from it if not deserve, we need one."

Mrs Major's decision to return with James and their daughter Elizabeth, aged 20, to their home in Great Staughton reflects her wish to keep in the background. "I've come home today. There is nothing I can usefully do in London. I don't think John will come home tonight, but I don't know, to be honest," she said.

The lack of sleep was weighing on her after all the excitement. "It was quite weird walking into central office at five in the morning with bright lights everywhere and so many people, but it's been wonderful."

Her ambition yesterday was to have an early night.

Foreign reaction

Kohl leads the way in congratulating Major

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CONSERVATIVE politicians in Europe wasted no time yesterday in welcoming John Major's victory in the hope that his success might be repeated back home.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor who is still reeling from regional election setbacks, sent a particularly warm telegram addressed to "Dear John". Referring to the prime minister with the familiar "du" form, normally reserved for close friends, Herr Kohl drew comfort from the fact that "the British people have entrusted you and your party with a further five years of leadership at a time of so many uncertainties on the international level and in the face of the challenges of the world economy."

Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris and leader of the conservative Rally for the Republic party, who is usually enthusiastic in his support for the Tories, failed to release a statement.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president who is not normally noted for his warmth to Conservatives, sent Mr Major a congratulatory telegram.

Chaim Herzog, the Israeli prime minister, was pleased about the Tories' victory. He said: "The failure for Labour confirms the picture of a deepening crisis for the social democrats and socialists in Western Europe which we have also seen in the recent weeks' elections in France

The Japanese were not overly concerned about the outcome, having decided that neither party would be able to do much to make dramatic economic policy changes. But Japanese financiers and businessmen yesterday expressed

Bush welcomes 'wonderful' Tory victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

presidential election. "There's a general sense that the Anglo-Saxon democracies tend to track each other," a senior member of the Bush-Quayle re-election campaign said. A right-wing British government had staved off a challenge from the left. "This is a good omen."

Officials said they were pleased not only that the administration's relationship with British Conservative governments over the past 11 years would continue, but that a political precedent had not been set for November's

Neil Kinnock in Downing Street this summer.

Mr Bush hailed his friend John Major's general election victory as "substantial" and "wonderful" as a general relief pervaded Republican circles. Officials said they were pleased not only that the administration's relationship with British Conservative governments over the past 11 years would continue, but that a political precedent had not been set for November's

With the parliamentary election over, White House officials betrayed more of the apprehension they had felt about a Labour government. "Labour's position had evolved in recent years, and it was not quite as frightening as it would have been a few years ago," said one. "However, clearly we are most comfortable with the Conservatives, whose positions on many things are better known to us and more in line with what the US administration has espoused."

Rapist trapped by kitchen footprint jailed for 14 years

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RAPIST wearing only goalkeeper's gloves who was trapped by a bare footprint he left on the tiled kitchen floor of his victim's house was jailed for 14 years yesterday.

Stephen Tomkinson, aged 32, was appearing for sentence at Bristol crown court after being convicted two weeks ago on two counts of raping a businesswoman. He was trapped by forensic experts after at first denying entering the house.

Mr Justice French, who said the sentence was the least he could impose, told Tomkinson that he not only violated his victim but also the safety of her home where he lay in wait in her bedroom. He also used the "distasteful" defence that she had consented to his advances.

The case had been adjourned for psychiatric reports. Tomkinson, a former amateur goalkeeper, had been living in a secure unit at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire, since last December. Michael Hubbard, for his defence, had said last month



Tomkinson: hid in his victim's bedroom

that reports indicated that his client was a danger to himself and others.

Yesterday, Mr Hubbard said there were few things to say in mitigation. But no weapon was involved and the victim was not subjected to further sexual indignity after the rapes. Tomkinson, he added, was not a candidate for a hospital order. His nine previous convictions did not include rape or serious assault.

Tomkinson, a van driver and divorced father of four children, from Bishopston, Bristol, had tracked his victim and twice indecently exposed himself to her near her home in the months before the rape. The married woman, aged 46, who now lives in London, was confronted in her bedroom. Tomkinson twisted her bathrobe cord around her neck.

Police asked a Cotswold painter, who has not been named, for his help and the victim co-operated in providing details for the artist whose drawing of the attacker provided a likeness that detectives were later to describe as "amazing".

A week later a man noticed Tomkinson acting suspiciously near two women on the Downs, Bristol, and recognised him from the artist's impression.

Tomkinson was taken to a police station where he agreed to give an inked impression of his left foot and was released. But he was arrested days later when experts found it a perfect match for the bare left footprint found in the kitchen.

Drivers kill 1m animals a year

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a million wild animals and birds are probably killed annually in road accidents, a toll that is likely to rise as traffic becomes heavier and faster, according to the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The trust's estimate, thought to be the first of its kind, is based on a five-year study by a trust member, James Baker. During his 60-mile round trip to and from work on main roads in Surrey, he counted 1,304 animals and birds killed from 1987 to the end of last year.

The death toll, on the journey through habitats from oak woodland, meadows and marshland to urban fringe, rose steadily from 1,742 in 1987 to 3,061 in 1990 and 3,833 last year. The figures for last year included 1,27 rabbits, the most frequent victims, 45 foxes, 29 woodpigeons, 24 pheasants, 22 grey squirrels, 20 hedgehogs, 12 rats, 12 badgers and 11 magpies, and smaller numbers of roe deer.

ANIMAL AND BIRD ROAD DEATHS					
	On one 30-mile route through Surrey				
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Domestic/feral cat	12	12	8	11	13
Civet squirrel	20	43	14	34	22
Rabbit	24	49	54	70	127
Badger	6	11	4	8	12
Pheasant	11	17	8	28	24
Fox	33	42	37	53	45
Hedgehog	21	12	9	11	20
Blackbird	2	7	6	7	7
Wood pigeon	7	18	18	17	29
Sparrow	1	1	-	-	2
Roe deer	3	3	5	4	3
Magpie	8	8	3	12	11
Dog	1	1	2	5	12
Pest	-	9	1	5	12

Civil War armour back in front line

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE Civil War exhibition sponsored by *The Times* was opened yesterday by Lord Hotham, a descendant of Sir John Hotham who buried Charles I from entering Hull in 1642 and began the manoeuvrings that preceded hostilities. Lord Hotham defended his ancestor, saying that Sir John had been a supporter of the monarchy, but like many noblemen had not liked King Charles.

"We are lucky to have an organisation like the Royal Armoury to ensure that these arms are preserved," he said. "We owe gratitude to the organisers and the sponsor for helping put on such an exhibition."

The exhibition, which will travel to four other sites, displays arms and armour ranging from two of the

English revolution
Saturday Review, 23-26



Vital image: artist's impression of the rapist

Bard's rural idyll found wanting

BY CRAIG SETON

SHAKESPEARE may turn in his grave. Countryside around his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, is not the rural idyll that tourism promoters suggest.

A survey of potential sites for development on the town's borders indicates that there is little to preserve from new housing. It claims that there is a marked absence of woodland, few plants of note and a paucity of wildlife. Kingfishers and other birdlife could be found and there was a shortage of places for songbirds to nest and feed.

The study by landscape and wildlife consultants of about 750 acres of fields and 28 miles of hedgerows and boundary land was ordered by Stratford-on-Avon district council to ensure that any valuable sites are spared development.

Pamela Copson, keeper of biology at the Warwickshire Museum, who helped in the survey, said yesterday that she had found the land impoverished for wildlife, and largely used for intensive arable farming and nondescript grassland that created few opportunities for plants and animals to flourish.

The idyllic image of Shakespeare country was "not matched by reality".

Mrs Copson said: "There were few brooks and the only ponds were dry or filled with rubble. Although there was evidence of foxes and rabbits, no badger sets

could be found and there was a shortage of places for songbirds to nest and feed. With the exception of a couple of haymeadows, there was little to get excited about."

Mrs Copson said that there were grants to enable farmers to return land to a more natural state if it was not required for agriculture, but supervised building developments with landscaping might offer a better environment for wildlife than now existed.

She said: "What we want is a nice skin around the edge of Stratford to make it attractive to approach from any direction and where residents can walk and look at the wildlife."

Ninety-five per cent of the news and current affairs picture editors had voted to walk out in support of their film editor colleagues, who also launched a 24-hour stoppage yesterday to protest at widespread redundancies.

A one-day blackout of all BBC radio and television programmes as "a vote of no confidence" in BBC senior management has been called by Bectu for May 15.

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Death at New Manor Farm

Scientists examine copse shotgun trap

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office scientists yesterday began testing a gun and a remote control system found close to the body of Peter Jowett, the wealthy Wiltshire farmer discovered shot in the back in a copse near Salisbury.

A shotgun, a battery operated arming device and an electrical wire leading away were discovered built into a wooden box 2ft by 18in, hidden in undergrowth 20 yards

from the body. Mr Jowett was reported missing on Wednesday night when staff at his 900-acre New Manor Farm arrived to relieve him from lambing duties. Police found his car on the A30 and then the body.

Last night, police said that they were still treating the investigation as a murder enquiry but it was possible that Mr Jowett died accidentally. The result of ballistic tests

next week will show whether this could have happened. One theory is that he was setting up a system to protect his land from foxes.

The shotgun device, which could be similar to an old fashioned method for scaring foxes away from pheasant pens, was about 2ft off the ground. The spot was an odd one for an anti-pest system, as no pheasants are kept near by and it is close to a main road. If the gun was intended to kill Mr Jowett, police will have to work out how it was sighted in the wood at night.

There was a 20-yard trail of blood from the device to the body. It seems that Mr Jowett was shot at close range and staggered away. A further post-mortem examination of his body was made yesterday because a pathologist found two entry wounds but only one bullet. Mr Jowett may have been hit at close range by a bullet and debris from the bullet's charge.

Police have found no evidence to substantiate suggestions that Mr Jowett was a "ladies' man" and could have been murdered out of jealousy.

They talked to Lavinia Jowett, his widow, yesterday. She and her children are staying with relatives rather than at the farmhouse.

six miles away. Many roofs are thatched and subtleties tumbles from rockers. Mr Titt said with some pride that no road in the village is classified above C-grade.

Two public houses and two churches serve a community of 2,000, many of whom work in Salisbury and the Solent area. Mr Titt said that the death had shocked villagers. The Jowetts were respected, and had always been co-operative in parish affairs, such as rights of way.

On the parish notice board, a notice for an amateur theatre production fluttered in the breeze. The play to be performed is *Murder for the Asking*. Whether that can be applied to Mr Jowett's death remains to be seen.

Rural calm broken

WINTERSLOW, home village of Peter Jowett, is somewhere where "no one ever came unless they were lost or curious", according to Reginald Titt, chairman of the parish council. "We don't often see a policeman, we don't often need one," he said, reflecting on normal times in the Wiltshire village now at the centre of a murder enquiry (Stewart Tendler writes).

A mile away, by the A30, at a spot known locally as Pickpocket, from the stage-coach days, policemen were combing undergrowth for clues to the death of Mr Jowett.

Elderly gardeners pottered in the village, based on four hamlets on a 500ft ridge that is level with the top of the spire of Salisbury cathedral,



Spanish practice: Maria del Mar Berlanga, Spain's top woman flamenco dancer, and the guitarist Juan Martin rehearsing for tonight's performance by the Duende Flamenco Dance Company at the Barbican centre, London. The group, aged 17 to 23, are considered to be the cream of Spain's flamenco dancers

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**Irishmen
face trial
for army
murder**

Amphetamines bound for Britain

English police find Dordogne drug base

By DAVID YOUNG

DETECTIVES are hunting an Englishman who owns a farm in the Dordogne area of France which has been used as a drug-making "factory" to produce amphetamines destined for southeast England.

Police believe that their success in uncovering illegal drug-production centres in Britain is forcing producers and dealers to set up bases in Europe.

In the latest operation, detectives from the Number Six regional crime squad covering Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire led French police to the remote farmhouse in the village of Meneplet. The farmhouse was unoccupied at the time of the raid but officers discovered a complete set of equipment and chemicals to produce amphetamines. Glassware, piping and more than 100 kilograms of "precursor" chemicals such as caustic soda had recently been used to produce the drug, although no drugs were found in the raid.

Belgian detectives, who had also been briefed by crime squad officers yesterday raided a flat at Middlekerke where they found two bags containing 50 kilograms of amphetamine sulphate with an estimated value of £250,000. These bags were also destined for the south of England.

Chatlines sued for £660,000

Trustees of the chatlines compensation fund are to sue eight former chatline operators to make good part of a £1 million shortfall in the money available to meet claims by people facing massive telephone bills because of abuse of their services.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Aldous gave the trustees leave to sue each company for its share of the £660,000 due in January when writs were issued. The plug was pulled on the chatlines by the watchdog Ofcom because most had failed to pay into the fund.

Father jailed

Almas Ahmad, aged 50, a Muslim of Wembley, northwest London, was jailed for life for stabbing to death his daughter Farah, aged 19, after she left home to live with her boy friend.

Arson death

Nick Cook, aged 16, died and his mother Marilyn, aged 39, is in hospital with serious burns after an arson attack on their home in Middleport, Staffordshire.

Hot and cold

The Common Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, closed two years ago after thousands of volunteers were paid to catch colds in a futile attempt to find a cure, has been burnt to the ground. The fire brigade spent more than eight hours at the scene, and managed to use the incident for training.

Short wrestles wily Karpov

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, the white knight of British chess and the highest ranked UK grandmaster in the history of the game, makes the opening moves of his greatest challenge today when his world championship semi-final begins against Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion.

The match, in Linares, Spain, is one of the concurrent semi-finals that will propel the ultimate winner towards a \$3 million (£1.7 million) challenge next year to the reigning world champion, Gary Kasparov. The second semi-final pits the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman against the former Soviet player Artur Yusupov, now resident in Germany.

Each semi-final will be for the best of ten games, with a prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs (£15,000) at stake in each match.

If the scores are level after ten games, qualifiers will be decided by quick-play chess, a method which has been designed by the World Chess Federation to

Chess,
Saturday Review, page 45

UK had been found on the Continent.

- Two men and a woman appeared in court yesterday after the seizure of cocaine and "crack" in south London with a street value estimated at £100,000.

Bobby Campbell, aged 28, a musician, of Brixton, and Neil Reid, aged 29, of Lewisham, are accused of possession of cocaine with intent to supply. Mr Campbell was also accused of possessing ammunition.

Lorraine Miller, aged 28, a secretary, of Mitcham, south London, is accused of conspiracy to supply cocaine, possession of ammunition and cannabis. Mr Campbell and Mr Reid were remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates until April 16. Miss Miller was remanded on conditional bail until the same date.

Scotland Yard said that the charges were brought after the seizure of controlled drugs three days ago.

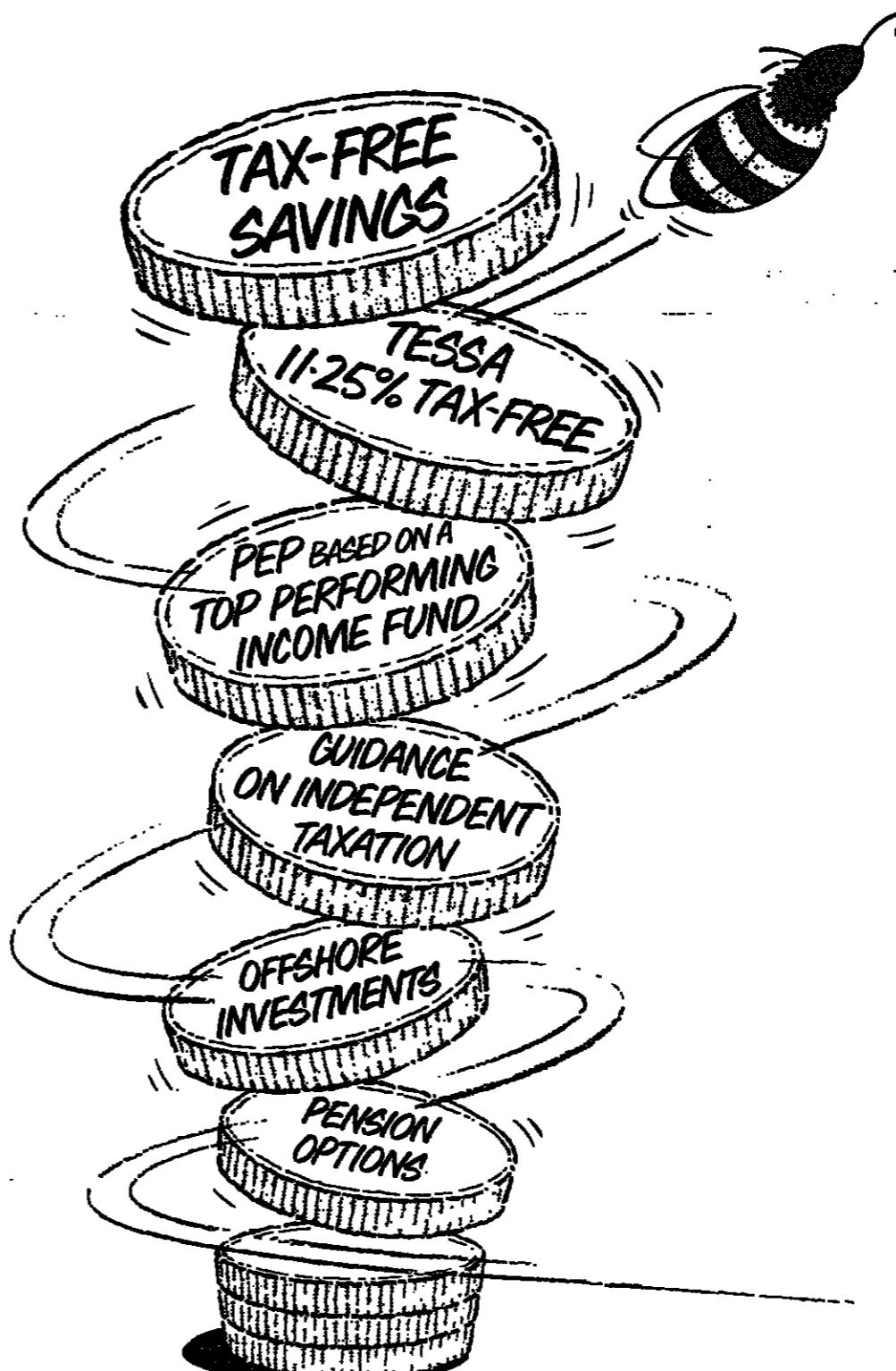


Pot for one: David Barker, an archaeologist, with a tiny teapot dating from about 1730, found during excavation of a development site in Stoke-on-Trent. Other ware and two kiln floors have been unearthed

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Women shed new light on old image

By PHILIP HOWARD

LITERARY EDITOR

WOMAN wailing because her man has left her is a cliché of western art, it is the basis of the blues and opera, of Cole Porter and a lot of tragedy. The poet Ruth Padel told the Classical Association conference in Oxford yesterday that the stereotype has deeper roots than we supposed.

Going back 2,500 years, she suggested that Euripides introduced the image into tragedy. He turned women bereft of their lovers into a dramatic image of human pain. But it tends to be men using women's pain to express their own.

Women are bringing their minds to bear on these old cultural stereotypes created by men. Christianne Sourvinou-Inwood of University College, Oxford, showed how Euripides made up bad women to get across revolutionary new truths about the war between the sexes. In that male dominated society of ancient Greece, certain things could be uttered by only a really bad woman.

Yugoslav army chiefs threaten full-scale military intervention

Embattled Bosnia pleads for help

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday made a dramatic appeal to the world to "prevent aggression against our peaceful country". Mr Izetbegovic spoke an hour after a renewed round of shelling had shaken the Bosnian capital and after Yugoslav army chiefs had threatened full-scale military intervention.

Addressing his appeal to the European Community, the United Nations Security Council and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mr Izetbegovic claimed that 3,000 men, women and children had been besieged in Zvornik and had been given an ultimatum

to give up their arms. "They have no weapons," said a grim-looking Mr Izetbegovic. Serb territorial defence units had surrounded the Gornji Sepak part of the town where these people have taken refuge. The Yugoslav army was watching without doing anything to prevent it, he said. The predominantly Muslim town fell to a Serb militia unit on Thursday.

Yesterday afternoon Jose Maria Mendiluce, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who had just returned from the area, said he had seen "several thousand terrified people without food or shelter in a hamlet com-

prising only a few houses". The hamlet was called Lijija. Other officials said they had seen ten to 15 bodies, including those of old people, being loaded on to trucks.

White Serb militias continued to fight in eastern Bosnia. Yugoslav army chiefs threatened to intervene. So far the Serb-dominated military had either claimed only to be separating warring factions or retaliating against attacks.

Bosnian Stevanovic, the Yugoslav air force chief, said: "If stolen military equipment is not returned and armed attacks on units and facilities do not cease... we will take full combat measures against objectives and formations which we think most threaten us." The air force has already mounted at least three bombing raids against Bosnian-Croat positions this week.

Yesterday afternoon Jose Cuthelco, the Portuguese chairman of the EC-sponsored talks on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, returned to Sarajevo in an attempt to reopen negotiations and halt the slide to civil war. Professor Milorad Ekmevic, a leading Bosnian Serb historian and adviser to Radovan Karadzic, the republic's main Serb leader, said he expected the EC talks to resume. "But the war will go on. There will be 15 days of peace, 15 days of fighting... historically it has always been like this in Bosnia."

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy to Yugoslavia and architect of the UN peace plan for Croatia, is expected to arrive in Sarajevo today to consult senior peace-keeping officials. The UN peacekeeping force, which is based in the city, has no mandate to intervene in Bosnia.

• Foreign recognition: Finland recognised Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state yesterday, a foreign ministry spokesman said. President Koivisto signed the notice. Czechoslovakia has also decided to recognise the republic as a sovereign state. A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday the decision was based on an agreement with Hungary and Poland. Italy said yesterday that it planned to establish diplomatic relations soon with the republic. (Reuter)

broiled in a tug-of-war with Russia over control of the former Soviet Union's tactical nuclear weapons and the Black Sea fleet, was also absent.

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who held a bilateral meeting with General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he discussed strategic and tactical weapons, conventional forces and "ways to find political solutions to conflicts throughout the world", adding: "We have developed common approaches to all these issues." General Powell said Marshal Shaposhnikov had assured him that Moscow had solid control of all the nuclear weapons in the former Soviet republics.

America said on Thursday that it had warned Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the four republics with nuclear arms, that they must move quickly to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which will reduce long-range weapons by about 30 per cent.

General Powell said he hoped Ukraine would soon resume shipment of nuclear weapons to Russia. Kiev has suspended the shipments in a dispute over the monitoring of their destruction. "We have reasons to be very hopeful that tactical nuclear weapons returns... to Russia will begin again in due course," General Powell said.

France, which is not in Nato's military structure, and Iceland, which has no armed forces, were observers at the meeting, and some Eastern states appointed others to represent them. Several former Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldavia and Uzbekistan, were absent.

Ukraine, which is em-

ployed in a tug-of-war with Russia over control of the former Soviet Union's tactical nuclear weapons and the Black Sea fleet, was also absent.

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Ukraine's newly appointed commander-in-chief of naval forces, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, said yesterday that he would continue to create "the necessary command structures" to take control of the entire Black Sea fleet based in the Crimean city of Sevastopol.

However, Admiral Kozhin confirmed that he had received instructions not to take charge of the navy until a political agreement over the fleet's future had been agreed between Russia and Ukraine.

He gave no date for the final takeover of the fleet but said: "The process will be contin-

ued and developed. We will not stop because we have already made a political decision to form a Ukrainian navy based in Sevastopol."

Speaking at a press conference organised by Ukrainian officials, the admiral said that the commanders of many of the fleet's 300 ships were ready to break links with the Kremlin-backed Admiral Igor Kazanov.

His comments emphasised the change in Ukraine's attitude over the fleet since last month. Previously President Kravchuk's government was willing to split political control of the fleet, but now the

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Yeltsin wins time for a reshuffle

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SUPPORTERS and opponents of Boris Yeltsin were locked in combat yesterday, trying to wrest from each other the vital concessions that would allow the Russian Congress of People's Deputies to complete its agenda. Behind the scenes, a compromise of sorts was taking shape, but President Yeltsin had expressed misgiving and many hours' more work was envisaged.

The immediate issue is the continuation of the special powers Mr Yeltsin was granted at the last congress in October when he became prime minister. These include his right to form a government without reference to parliament and issue decrees on economic matters.

More than half the number of deputies appear to believe that the reforms have run out

of control, brought undesirable consequences, and should be adjusted.

By mid-morning, Mr Yeltsin had averted the first threat — a draft congress document that would have stripped him of the special powers and required him to relinquish the post of prime minister.

Before the draft had been

referred back to the editing commission, Mr Yeltsin strode to the rostrum and said that an immediate government reshuffle was out of the question. He undertook to nominate an additional deputy prime minister before the end of the congress, scheduled for next Wednesday, and nominate a new government by October 1 with a view to completing the process by December 1. "By then, all will be clear."

Support for Russia in the city appears to be stronger than it is in the navy itself, where almost every unit has refused to display the Russian ensign over their ships or buildings. Sevastopol is a naval base rooted in the Kremlin's military traditions and is deeply embedded in the national psyche, the results of its experiences at the hands of French, British and German besiegers in the past 150 years.

PEOPLE

Mafia boss sends his love from jail: 'We'll be back'

The mafia boss, John Gotti, in jail awaiting sentencing for murder and racketeering, has asked a newspaper columnist to spread the word that "I love all the people who had faith in me".

The Cindy Adams column in the New York Post reports that Gotti, "the dapper Don", is allowed one telephone call a night at the correctional centre and used one to talk to her for six minutes about his appeal. He said: "We'll be back out there again... too many errors were made."

Jane Fonda, a newlywed at 54, says age and her marriage to the media tycoon, Ted Turner, have helped her appreciate the quiet satisfactions of home and family. "I was driven every moment of my life," she told the *Bozemian Daily Chronicle* of her years as a liberal firebrand.

She said issues important to her now include "rest and replenishment and feeling safe and secure with somebody".

"That's what Ted is for me, and the few things I regret in my life are... not having put enough time into mothering, loving, taking care of the inner life," she said.

Spike Lee blames a racist Hollywood system for the trouble he had getting funding for his upcoming film, *Malcolm X*, the story of the Black Muslim leader. "Hollywood still doesn't recognise black cinema," he said. "They still aren't ready to spend as much money on black film as they do on white." Lee said

during a talk at Rochester Institute of Technology that he had trouble getting the budget he thought he needed from Warner Brothers, which

came up with \$29 million. A completion bond company took over when the film went \$5 million over budget, he said.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH

Belgium expels Russian envoys

A Polish trial is examining politics and madness, Roger Boyes writes

Brussels: Belgium has ordered two diplomats and two officials of the commercial section at the Russian embassy here to leave the country within 24 hours (Tom Walker writes).

At the same time Bruno Bulthe, an investigating magistrate, has started interrogating 11 Belgians who allegedly supplied military technology to the former Soviet Union. Among those being questioned is the journalist Guido Tkinti, an aviation specialist for the Flemish *De Standaard*. An official in the Flemish regional government and several military personnel are understood also to be among the Belgians under suspicion.

Before the expulsion orders were served, police launched dawn raids on several homes in Brussels and surrounding Flanders in an operation codenamed "Glasnost".

Leader to quit

Rome: Arnaldo Forlani, the Italian Christian Democrat leader, says he will step down in the wake of the party's fall below 30 per cent of the vote in the parliamentary elections. But party officials indicated they would reject his resignation. (AP)

EC team leaves

Phnom Penh: A fact-finding mission from the European Community left Cambodia satisfied with the amount of aid the EC has promised and optimistic about the country's reconstruction. The EC has pledged \$20.5 million in food and financial aid. (AP)

Image polish

Paris: President Mitterrand, seeking to reimpose his authority after his Socialist party's reverses in the regional elections, is to go on television in the wake of the party's fall below 30 per cent of the vote in the parliamentary elections. But party officials indicated they would reject his resignation. (AP)

Help sought

Catania: The mayor of a village near Mount Etna in Sicily has asked the Italian air force to use bombs to slow the lava flow that is threatening it. The 10,900ft volcano, Europe's tallest and most active, has been erupting since December. (Reuters)

Detainees flee

Budapest: Twenty-six illegal immigrants broke out of a detention camp near here after spraying the unarmed guard with tear gas. Four Chinese and a Turk were recaptured, but the others, of different nationalities, were still at large. (Reuters)

Crime busting

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has written to the governments of Russia and Poland seeking co-operation with their undercover agents in the fight against drug trafficking and combating organisations such as the Mafia.

Stamps issued

Moscow: Independent Russia's first stamps are on sale in Moscow. Inscribed with *Rossiya* in Cyrillic letters and its Latin equivalent, *Russia*, they commemorate the Albertville winter Olympics and the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Marshal to visit

Paris: Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, head of the Commonwealth of Independent States' armed forces, is to visit France for talks with Pierre Joxe, the defence minister. He will also inspect an air base in Dijon and naval facilities in Toulon. (AP)

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Running for cover: a Serbian fighter trying to avoid sniper fire in an eastern suburb of Sarajevo yesterday as fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Belgium
expels
Russian
envoys

De Klerk meets Babangida

Black and white find harmony in Nigeria

FROM ELIZABETH OBADINA IN LAGOS

SOUTH Africa and Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, put four decades of hostility behind them in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, yesterday when President Babangida pledged support for President de Klerk's constitutional reforms.

They discussed improving bilateral relations, the future of South Africa within the family of African nations, and Nigeria's role as a mediator between Pretoria and its internal opponents. Mr de Klerk said before leaving that the talks had been "warm and friendly, extremely constructive".

Earlier he told a state banquet in his honour: "History has kept us apart for many reasons for many decades. Tonight we can say that the barriers of history are being broken down." Mr de Klerk also provided the entertainment, joining in a quartet with his wife, Marica, and General and Mrs Babangida. The four held hands and sang of the need to make the world a better place for everyone.

The performance amazed Nigerians, whose government had previously turned down South African requests for a visit. At the banquet General Babangida said that the whites-only referendum on March 17 which backed Mr de Klerk's reforms was the turning point which precipitated this first visit.

He described Mr de Klerk as a visionary leader who had "taken a well-deserved position" alongside the black South African heroes, Steve

Biko and Nelson Mandela. He said South Africa's policies were "tremendously exciting" and promised Nigeria's support for constitutional development through the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. The Pan African Congress, which has consistently refused to participate in Codesa, met South African officials for the first time in Abuja.

General Babangida expressed serious concern about the wave of violence in South Africa which he said, posed "incalculable danger for the reform process".

The South Africans hope that their visit to Abuja will open doors to the rest of Africa and help them join the Organisation of African Unity. But Bolaji Akinwumi, a former Nigerian foreign minister, said on television on Thursday night that OAU members were never quite comfortable with Nigeria taking initiatives such as this, and that he was not sure whether General Babangida was acting as chairman of the OAU or president of Nigeria.

Mr de Klerk's visit comes after the resumption last week of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Ivory Coast, Nigeria's neighbour, and many African nations look to Nigeria to provide a lead. Nigeria wants to see South Africa join the African Economic Treaty, signed in Abuja during last June's OAU summit.

Pointing out that Africa faces the challenge of overcoming poverty, illiteracy and

Africa club puts out welcome mat for unlikely hero

The nations of black Africa are increasingly looking to South Africa as an export market and potential investment bank. Sam Kiley writes

President de Klerk could not have hoped for a more fulsome welcome or more passionate flattery on his first visit to Nigeria. A 21-gun salute and his inclusion by General Ibrahim Babangida in South Africa's gallery of reformist heroes, such as Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, is a sure sign that South Africa is now allowed to come from the cold and rejoin the dark continent as a full member.

This is a breakthrough for Mr de Klerk and for the South African ministry of foreign affairs which sees Nigeria, Kenya and Egypt as the main access for developing economic and political ties throughout Africa. It is equally, if not more, important for the many African countries anxious to do business with Pretoria but so far have been coy in their dealing with the republic for fear of upsetting the African National Congress.

With Nigeria's General Babangida holding the presidency of the Organisation of African Unity, South Africa's announcement that it would like to join the body is well timed. Mr de Klerk is sure to win Nigeria's much-needed backing and may take his seat at the organisation's headquarters in Addis Ababa before the end of the year.

South Africans want to join the organisation not so much because they see it as a worthwhile group — it has been no more effective in helping to solve Africa's problems than the League of Nations was at preventing the second world war — but because, as one diplomat put it, "that would be the cherry on the cake for us. A sign that we are at last being accepted as Afri-

cans". Other Africans are looking to South Africa as a vast potential market for their exports as well as a sort of pan-African investment bank. Many, like the Kenyans, relish the thought of the arrival of plane loads of aggressive and competent South African businessmen with joint venture proposals in their briefcases that will revitalise semi-dormant local industries.

As a group of black Sowetan businessmen said after a recent visit to Kenya, one of the best-run black African countries, "they will have to smarten up their acts".

The businessmen were shocked at the state of the roads, telephones and other services in Mombasa, Kenya's second city. "What is President Moi going to do to raise his people from the gutter?" they wondered.

Nevertheless Kenya,

where South Africa already has a permanent representative, and Nigeria are crucial for developing Pretoria's influence over the continent. R.W. "Pik" Botha and others in his foreign ministry are not much interested in what the others have to offer. Their priority is the erstwhile frontier states, then come Egypt in the north as a gateway to the Middle East and the two capitalist economies in East and West Africa. "We feel very strongly about Lagos, Cairo and Nairobi," a South African official said. "We are sure we can work well with those countries immediately. But the further north you go, the greater the belief that South Africa is coming to the continent with bags of money to invest. If you look at our economy, there is not much to spread around."

That makes the success of Mr de Klerk's Lagos visit all the more crucial as oil-rich Nigeria has the potential to become an investor in South Africa rather than the other way round.

As Mr Botha said in Lagos this week, Nigeria, which has the largest population on the continent, and South Africa, which has the biggest economy, can combine to project more forcefully the views of Africa, which is in danger of being marginalised and ignored by the industrialised world.



Botha: trade route to Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya



Reaching out: President Babangida outlines the advantages to Nigeria of his new friendship with President de Klerk during his meeting yesterday with the South African leader at the presidential residence in Abuja

Two shots fired near Mandela

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO shots were fired yesterday as Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, drove through Emsleni, a black township in northern Natal where at least 60 people have been killed in the past three months.

It was not clear if the shots came near Mr Mandela. Saki Macozoma, an ANC spokesman, said he had seen a man with a gun in a field and ANC security officials said later they had found a man who said he had been "playing" with his home-made weapon and did not mean to frighten anyone.

Meanwhile, the ANC has demanded that the South African Army's controversial 32 Battalion, consisting of Namibians and former Angolans, be confined to barracks and disbanded after an alleged rampage through Phola Park squatter camp east of Johannesburg. The ANC claims that on Wednesday units of the battalion assaulted more than 100 people in the camp, killed one woman and raped several.

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Afghan deal promises peace

Najibullah agrees to give up power

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan announced yesterday that he was ready to hand over control of his disintegrating administration to a 15-man transitional council being set up by the United Nations. He may resign before the end of the month.

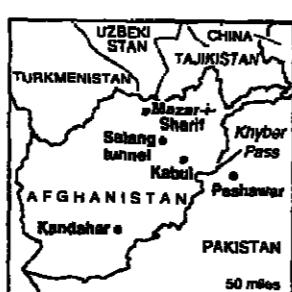
The council will attempt to stop the country sinking further into ethnic and tribal anarchy pending the installation of an interim government, which would try to pave the way to elections. Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said in Geneva that creation of the transitional council, which will take over "as soon as possible", represented a first step towards reconciliation. UN sources said it was hoped that the body would hold power for no more than 45 days.

Dr Boutros Ghali said the agreement to set up the council marked "major progress" towards lasting peace in Afghanistan, racked by civil war since the overthrow of President Daoud by officers professing Soviet-style communism in 1978. He said the council would be composed of "impartial personalities" and a statement issued later said that consultations were under way on who would join the council and on other arrangements for the transitional period.

It said there was an understanding that, once the council took power, there would be a cessation of hostilities, a declaration of general amnesty and guarantees of safety and security for all Afghans.

The transitional council will be a weak structure, serving as a modest symbol of power in Kabul while a *jirga* (assembly) is convened, possibly next month, aimed at setting up an interim government. The assembly was due to be held in Geneva or Vienna, but may now be held inside Afghanistan. It faces daunting obstacles: Iran and Pakistan are fighting for influence, rival mujahedin groups may compete for power, and worsening ethnic divisions may continue to blight peace prospects.

The new council was rejected yesterday by Gulbuddin



Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami, the most powerful mujahedin group. "Without our participation it will fail," he said. The hardline fundamentalist leader seemed determined to hold out for a military victory over Kabul, remote as his success may seem. UN and Western observers believe that he could eventually become isolated and increasingly irrelevant to the peace process. In the end, he may even participate.

Benon Sevan, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan who has held intensive negotiations over the past few months with all sides in the Afghan conflict and the governments of neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, is expected to announce the names of the 15 members of the new council next week. There is bound to be controversy over the choices. He is due to meet mujahedin groups in Pakistan on Tuesday, including Hezb-i-Islami, to try to persuade them to go along with the peace plan.

Dr Najibullah has watched power rapidly drain away from him in recent months amid increasing ethnic tensions. Serious food shortages have affected even the privileged minority who possess government food coupons, further eroding his power base. Should he step down, he is likely to take the remaining top loyalists in his Watan (Homeland) party with him, leaving a power vacuum that the new council would attempt to fill.

One crucial question concerns what the army and the government's militia forces will do. If they fall apart, Kabul could go the way of other Afghan cities that have been overrun and plundered

by mujahedin rebels. But the military is likely to remain intact and support the new council. With Dr Najibullah out of power, non-Pashtun militia groups that have mutinied in recent weeks might return to the fold.

The battle to save Afghanistan from further ethnic and tribal warfare is at a critical stage. The ethnic divide is essentially along Pashtun and anti-Pashtun lines, reflecting centuries of resentment at the dominating position of Pashtuns over the apparatus of government.

Mazar-i-Sharif, the second largest city, has fallen to renegade Uzbek and Tajik militia who rebelled against Pashtun domination. The rebels control a section of the Salang highway, the only land link to Central Asia and a vital supply lifeline. The loss of the city and the Salang dealt a serious blow to Dr Najibullah's prestige and demonstrated that he was losing control.

Pakistan is keen for peace in Afghanistan. It has abandoned support for a military solution and pulled away from fundamentalist groups, principally because of pressure from central Asian republics that do not want a fundamentalist regime to the south. Without stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan's access to the valuable Central Asian market will be seriously hampered. Islamabad also fears that rising anarchy across the border will lead to another wave of refugees, adding to three million already living in camps.

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Najibullah: plagued by shortages of food



In the bag: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, signalling success at a press conference in Geneva yesterday when he announced the agreement of most sides in the Afghan conflict to set up a 15-member governing transitional council in Kabul

Brown rages at drug 'fiction'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER weeks of hurtling accusations at Bill Clinton, Jerry Brown yesterday found himself on the receiving end. Four past members of his security detail alleged that, as governor of California in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Democratic presidential candidate hosted parties at which "large quantities" of cocaine and marijuana were used.

The charges, coming on the day that President Bush denounced 1992 as "about the ugliest political year I've ever seen", prompted furious denials from Mr Brown, who cancelled a campaign rally in Virginia and rushed to Washington's television network studios to defend himself.

Mr Brown called the charges "bizarre, defamatory and unsubstantiated". He said they had to be politically inspired. The 54-year-old bachelor said he never held parties, which was "why I'm supposed to be weird".

Neither claimed to have seen Mr Brown using drugs, but under California law it is an offence knowingly to have either drug in one's house. The officers claimed they did not arrest Mr Brown at the time because he was governor of California and their job was to protect him, but that they did raise the issue with their superiors, who did nothing. They refused to be identified for fear of losing their jobs or pensions.

Numerous figures came forward to denounce the charges, including two of Mr Brown's police drivers, the chief of his state police detail at the time, and two of his former chiefs of staff.

The charges came just a few days after Bill Clinton, Mr Brown's opponent, admitted on a television chat show that he had tried marijuana while a student at Oxford. Appearing on the same programme, Mr Brown denied ever breaking drugs laws, adding: "I agree with Clinton. Why don't you lay off this stuff? What you did 10 or 20 years ago is not relevant."

Khomeini's son warns the West

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEHRAN

THE spectre of the late Ayatollah Khomeini loomed over yesterday's general election in Iran as candidates were reminded of their duty to honour his memory by continuing to export the Islamic revolution. The call by his radical son, Ahmad, was a snub to moderate President Rafsanjani, who has emphasised that the vote should be the signal for improved ties with the outside world that the new deputies would persist in spreading Iran's revolution to every Islamic nation.

Invoking the memory of his father, who on the eve of the last election in 1988 urged the nation not to vote for "capitalist Islam", Ahmad Khomeini, who was not a candidate, warned the outside world that the new deputies would persist in spreading Iran's revolution to every Islamic nation. Following the revolution, he used to preach after casting his vote in the room where the ayatollah used to preach after the 1979 revolution. He was greeted with prayers vowing death to America, Britain and Israel.

About 2,200 candidates are vying for a place in the 270-seat parliament. Political parties are banned, but most support one or the other of two rival Muslim clerical societies.

Ahmad Khomeini attacked the foreign media for supposedly inventing the power struggle between "moderate" and "radical" factions which has dominated the campaign. Special visas have

Ayatollah Khomeini: shadow cast over poll

been granted to 60 foreign journalists to cover the event. Despite evidence to the contrary in the 30,000 polling stations, he insisted the split was the figment of the imagination of the big powers.

The agreement in principle was announced at the end of two days of talks involving representatives of the federal government and the province in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The deal was hailed as an important victory by the country's most powerful native Indian leader.

Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said that a stumbling block to the achievement of the aspirations of Canada's one million aborigines had been cleared.

Bob Rae, the premier of Ontario and leading exponent of the rights of indigenous populations, called the accord a "legal, moral and psychological breakthrough". He said Canada was finally coming to terms with 500 years of colonial history.

Imelda yields

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the Philippines' presidential candidate and former first lady, has agreed to a government demand to delay the return of the body of her husband, Ferdinand, the former president, until after the elections on May 11. (AFP)

Reactors sold

Peking: China will export miniature nuclear reactors to Syria and Ghana, the Xinhua news agency reported. The announcement was apparently designed to counter Western criticism of the usually secretive nuclear deals China does. (AP)

Exodus ended

Geneva: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said he has arranged the repatriation to Burma of about 200,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled into Bangladesh alleging rape and murder by the Burmese army. (AFP)

Mop-up begins

Phnom Penh: A unit of Britain's Royal Engineers will begin landmine-clearing programme next week in Cambodia around the western town of Pailin, which is controlled by the Khmer Rouge, their commanding officer said. (Reuters)

Help planned

Addis Ababa: The presidents of Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti have agreed to set up a co-ordinating body to help six million refugees in the region and the ten million people displaced by drought and war. Somalia failed to attend the summit. (AFP)

Shrinking sales

Tokyo: Konica, the Japanese camera maker, will next week put the world's smallest single-use camera on sale. The size of a packet of cigarettes, it will cost £7.60 with a flash or £4 without. The company offers to refill the cameras for reuse. (Reuters)

Stamped out

Jerusalem: A poster of Marilyn Monroe wearing a glistening bathing costume and doing a jig has been banned from Israeli post offices for fear it would offend religious Jews. The poster advertised an issue of stamps depicting dead film stars. (Reuters)

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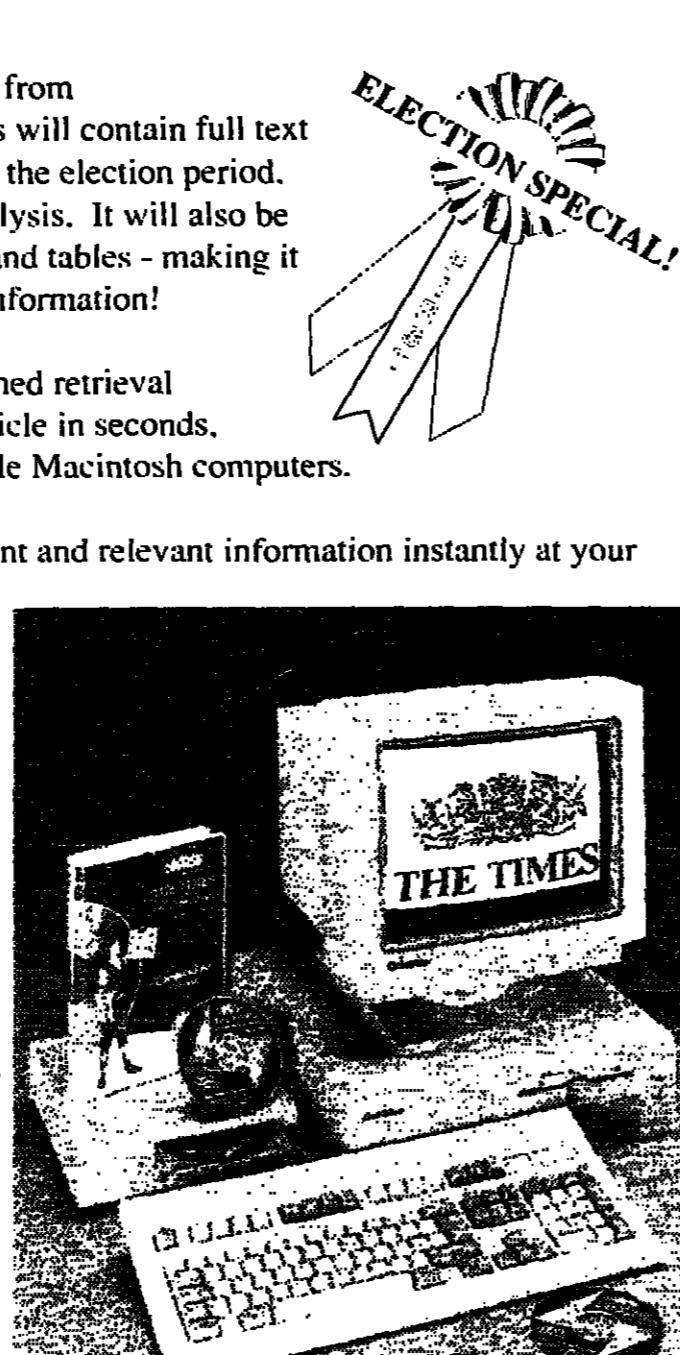
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Noriega armoury of appeals can drag case on for years

American lawyers fear the case against Noriega will not stand the scutiny facing it in the appeal courts, Jamie Dettmer in Washington writes

WHILE the Bush administration celebrated the conviction on Thursday of Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian military leader, as an important victory against drugs, American criminal lawyers said that the cocaine trafficking and racketeering case against him was flawed and could drag on for years in the appeal courts.

The dispute has provoked centres on the unprecedent nature of the trial. Never before has the United States invaded another country and brought its head of state back to America to stand trial.

Noriega's main lawyer, Frank Rubino, constantly highlighted his client's status as head of state and challenged the right of US courts to hear the case. The federal judge in the Miami trial warned jurors against taking into account the manner of Noriega's arrest and said that questions of jurisdiction should not concern them. They are, however, likely to concern an appeal court.

In an appeal, Mr Rubino is also likely to argue that the freezing of Noriega's financial assets by the US government was illegal and prevented the former dictator from having the ability to pay for as wide legal

representation as he might have wanted. Government electronic interceptions of telephone calls the former military leader made from his prison cell to his lawyers will also come up. Mr Rubino will also ask an appeal court to rule on the validity of the trial judge's decision in prohibiting the defence from presenting evidence that Noriega was co-operating with the CIA in the war against drugs.

Several leading US lawyers believe that Mr Rubino's case could well be a compelling one. "Everybody who has witnessed this case has been shocked at the government's behaviour," said Jeffrey Weiner, president of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers.

The issue of the right of federal law enforcement agents to seize fugitives abroad is already before the Supreme Court, which is to rule on a case of a Mexican who was abducted by federal agents. A decision in favour of the Mexican would have important repercussions for a Noriega appeal.

In an appeal, Mr Rubino is also likely to argue that the freezing of Noriega's financial assets by the US government was illegal and prevented the former dictator from having the ability to pay for as wide legal

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Clifford Longley

What is the moral basis for the capitalist system?

Civil servants at the Department of Trade and Industry or the Treasury should not be too coy about including in the in-tray of new ministers a copy of the Bishop of Oxford's latest book *Is there a Gospel for the Rich?*

Bishop Richard Harries's tone is at times disconcertingly anecdotal. The advanced publicity and title are not a reliable guide to its drift. But there is no greater need in theology and commerce (and in politics) than for a book which tells each world what the other is thinking, and sets them in a historical context. There is no other such book, and Harries's faults of presentation are as nothing to his virtues of comprehensive and timeliness.

There is a growth industry in discourse about morality and business, ethics and wealth creation, capitalism and Christianity. The removal of Marxism as a serious intellectual challenge only adds to the need for constructive scrutiny of the moral credentials of capitalism. If it is not going to be done by the left at least it can be done in the name of religion. Two years ago *The Times* contributed to this surge of interest with its own seminar on the subject, sponsored jointly with the Comino Foundation and preceded by a series of three excellent articles in the paper (to which Bishop Harries refers).

On the one hand, those in industry and commerce were groping towards some comprehension of their confused world in the light of moral imperatives, particularly religious ones. On the other, representatives of experts in religion and morality were groping towards some verdict on the activities of industrialists and businessmen more useful (and true) than the old *anathema sit*.

The question whether a rich man can be a Christian, posed by Bishop Harries's title, is the one area of this subject most open to plaudits — of which the disparity between God and Mammon is the most obvious and least illuminating. It is none the less the needle's eye which has to be passed through on the way to an appraisal of the morality of various forms of economic activity. Damning all forms of capitalism as mere selfish greed — a common church attitude which Bishop Harries effectively demolishes — leads only to poverty, central planning or both.

Politicians and economists of the right, assuming that the free market can manage everything, are inclined to neglect the case for an ethical foundation to industry. Businessmen tend to be more aware of the need for some moral legitimization of wealth creation. Politicians of the left, meanwhile, are at least as much in ignorance, finding it hard to say anything in favour of wealth creation or market forces. To that extent they can be bracketed with the churches against industry and commerce. They too need to be made to examine their moral prejudices.

There is plenty of polemic. What has been lacking is a dispassionate overview, an encyclopaedia of theological writing on economic issues, not neglecting Adam Smith and Karl Marx. Also among the most important sources are the papal encyclicals on Catholic social teaching, upon which there is no adequate English commentary despite the great influence of this tradition inside the European Community. Nor is the wisdom of the Bible on social organisation and economic activity accessible except to experts, despite its great influence in shaping capitalist society in 19th-century Britain and America.

Although he deals with both these sources generously, one odd omission from the Bishop's compilation is a thorough treatment of Archbishop William Temple. Temple is often regarded as a mainstay of the Anglican tradition of "social responsibility", and he was one of the architects of the British welfare state consensus which followed Beveridge. Any assessment of the moral health of a state's socio-economic arrangements cannot ignore the treatment of its citizens' needs and hardships. Because of the Establishment and the church's long tradition of charitable service, Anglicanism has traditionally felt a proprietary interest in the welfare state, as a manifestation of the Christian nation. And yet the birth of the welfare state represented a moment of transfer, when private charitable foundations believed themselves to be superseded by government.

For such reasons as this, the neglect of Temple in a contemporary review of leading influences is perhaps an implicit acknowledgement that the development of specifically Anglican thinking on socio-ethical issues has not kept up to date. Bishop Harries's contribution needs to be followed up by many more, but it is a good start.

John Grigg says Labour lost because the party has failed to adapt to social change since 1945

Left behind by the voters

Yesterday people were comparing the election result with that of 1970, when Ted Heath's Conservatives came from behind — in the opinion polls, at any rate — to win a clear majority of votes and a workable majority of seats. There is some validity in the comparison, above all in what one might call the Dewey-Truman factor.

The classic American presidential election of 1948 confounded the pollsters by giving Harry S. Truman a wholly unexpected victory over Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. Throughout the campaign Dewey was regarded — and, fatally, came to regard himself — as a certain winner.

He spoke and acted as though he were already president, while Truman campaigned relentlessly, showing confidence that he would win but never taking victory for granted. Much the same happened in Britain in 1970. Harold Wilson behaved in a presidential manner throughout the campaign,

hardly referring to Mr Heath and resting on the evidence of the polls which, until the last moment, seemed to point to a certain Labour re-election. Heath baulked on, refusing to admit that his cause was lost.

In the event a Labour majority of about 100 (in 1966) was turned into a Conservative majority of 30.

During the past three weeks, the Labour party has been talking and acting as though it were already the government. There was John Smith's "budget" and his appearance with his shadow colleagues posing on the steps of the Treasury. There was John Cunningham's bland prospectus of the steps the Labour government would take immediately the new Parliament assembled.

Poor Mr Kinnock was forced

to act quite out of character, as a statesman weighing and measuring his words, whereas his special strength is as a fiery and spontaneous orator.

To find the last occasion when a party in power improved its position between the beginning and the end of an election campaign we have to go back to 1951. At that poll, the Labour party under Clement Attlee, which had been in power since 1945, ended with a small majority (a little over 200,000) of the total vote, but through the capricious workings of our electoral system it still lost the election. The Conservatives under Winston Churchill had a small working majority in Parliament — smaller than Mr Major's is now — and they were able to govern with considerable success for four years.

Eighteen months earlier, in February 1950, the majority of 146 that Labour had won in its landslide victory of 1945 had been reduced to an overall majority of only five, rather than the big Conservative majority of 1951 has been cut, though less drastically, in this election.

But Labour hung on then, despite a formidable challenge from a chastened and revitalised Conservative party. And it would probably have hung on through a whole parliament, or have won again in 1951 — in seats as well as votes — had it not been torn apart by Aneurin Bevan's resignation and the beginnings of civil war in the party.

Another disadvantage for Labour was that, unlike Mr Major, Attlee was an ageing and tired leader, who had been in high office since he joined the Churchill coalition in 1940. (By

now feel that they are on the right side of the tracks. Prosperity is widespread, and those who have not yet attained it, or who have temporarily lost it, do not wish to change the conditions in which it can be created and enjoyed. Even if they have not yet achieved it, most people aspire to prosperity, and the Conservative party is therefore the natural party of enough people to provide a parliamentary majority under the existing system.

Just as the Conservatives worked hard after 1945 to live down their 1930s reputation and to improve their image, so the Labour party has worked hard to live down its past and to acquire the image of a party relevant to the 1990s. But it has failed yet again, and a more fundamental reappraisal, together with a long overdue realignment of forces on the left, now seems imperative.

John Grigg is the author of *Lloyd George: The People's Champion* (Methuen).

A day is a long time in politics

After 16 months John Major has a mandate, but his first decisions will be crucial, says Peter Riddell

John Major yesterday at last looked a prime minister at ease with himself. As he strolled along Downing Street chatting to the crowds, he was demonstrating his pride that "I can now accept that the country has elected me in my own right to be prime minister.

A transitional figure for the past 16 months, he was yesterday savouring his own mandate. He has the freedom of manoeuvre previously denied to him as a leader on probation with his party and the country. Mr Major now has as much political power as he will ever have. It will not last long. In the next few days he will have the chance to define what a Major government means, in both personnel and policy terms.

In the past such moments of triumph have often been illusory and short-lived. Working majorities are no protection against external pressures or hubris.

Harold Wilson's re-elected administration in 1966 soon stumbled into a sterling crisis, while over-confidence led Margaret

Thatcher at the start of her third term in 1987 to ignore warnings from her Treasury ministers about the poll tax.

Mr Major is too shrewd a politician to believe that the Tories' success against expectation gives him a blank cheque, but it is a personal vindication against the sniping by both fellow Tories and the media. He can no longer be patronised.

The first test will be the reshuffle of his ministerial team. When he became prime minister, his room for manoeuvre was limited both by his inheritance and by his desire — and obligation — to reward his campaign team. Since then, some ministers have looked tired and lacked political sharpness. The presentation of both economic and health policies has often been deficient.

Mr Major now has the chance

to remedy these weaknesses, to retire long-serving ministers and to fill the gaps left by the defeat of ministers seeking re-election, as well as a chance to change the structure of Whitehall, as promised in the manifesto. Often during the campaign Michael Heseltine looked like a joint deputy prime minister with Douglas Hurd. Now he is likely to have his reward, since, with the Tories re-elected, he is no longer even a potential threat to Mr Major; any question of the Tory leadership is far ahead.

In the Queen's Speech on May 6, Mr Major can define his own programme: broadening incentives and ownership, and spreading the benefits of Thatcherism. We shall see if the Citizen's Charter really can improve public services.

But Mr Major cannot carry on as if nothing has happened in the past month. Opinion polls and comments made on the doorstep were not all wrong. Many voters, especially in the South East, have felt let down because of the recession, the poll tax and standards of public services. They have not been lying over the past few weeks; I never saw much real enthusiasm for Labour, but rather distaste of Neil Kinnock and doubts about its plans. So when voters came to make their choice on Thursday — sustaining the Tory share of the vote at its 1983 and 1987 levels — their main concerns, as always, were their personal well-being and fears about Labour's tax plans.

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If the earlier poll findings were essentially a protest vote, they were still a protest, to which ministers know they have to respond. However, Mr Major now has time on his side to deal with these worries. The Tory

majority should be sufficient to see them through at least three years without too many troubles in the Commons. They should be time not only for the economic recovery to begin, but also for the Treasury to take a grip of public finances. The next polling day will no doubt see the economic and political cycles back in line.

By the time of the next election, the Tories will also have had time to entrench the changes to the health service and education which are now only half completed. Most large hospitals will have become trusts, a majority of general practitioners will have become independent fundholders, and a wave of schools will be seeking grant-maintained status. Compulsory competitive tendering will have been taken much further, both in local and central

government, further challenging public sector unions.

Mr Major is also the only head of government in a G7 country who is in a politically strong position. This should strengthen his hand in the British presidency of the European Community, which begins in July — notably in the discussions over the EC's budget and enlargement of membership.

America and European allies will be reassured by the continuation of the Major-Hurd team. Potential splits within the Tory party over the EC which might have arisen in opposition should be avoidable, although by the time of the next election the government will be facing major decisions over economic and monetary union.

In the aftermath of victory, the Tories appear to be not only the natural party of government but

also perhaps the perpetual one, like the Liberal Democrats in Japan. That question was, of course, posed after Labour's loss in 1964, and then looked silly in 1964. But Labour is now starting to run out of excuses. It is no good blaming the bias of the tabloid press. The party has fought stronger campaigns than the Tories in both the last two elections and yet has lost, perhaps showing how unimportant all the presentation devices really are. Mr Kinnock is a liability and will no doubt go after a bruising 6½ years; his achievement has been to rescue Labour from the abyss of 1983.

But that is not a sufficient explanation. If after its far-reaching policy review, and fighting an election during a deep recession, Labour can still not win, then when can it win? It can hardly qualify its commitment to a redistributive approach much further without ceasing to be a democratic socialist party.

Nor is there much evidence that the public is interested in constitutional changes. The Liberal Democrats' stress on hung parliaments may have scared voters back to the Tories this week, and in Scotland the Tories rallied wavering by warning about dangers to the union.

We may not all be Tories now — 57 per cent still support opposition parties — but the message of the election, and Mr Major's opportunity now, is that enough of the public does not want to risk a return to redistributive policies and a collectivist approach. They do not want to sacrifice earlier gains. No wonder Mrs Thatcher looked pleased in the early hours of yesterday. Her legacy will be safeguarded.



...and moreover
PHILIP HOWARD

The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there. We cannot recapture time past, though it is the job of writers and historians and film-makers and playwrights to try. Sometimes they succeed marvelously in putting new flesh on old bones. *Hamlet* is a contemporary story of everyday screwed-up folk, even though it is unconvincing on the details of court etiquette in Elsinore in the Dark Ages. It did not destroy the dying fall of Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* that his butler hero got bumbling activities wrong and went around filling up glasses with port after dinner.

Faws in dating — making Anglo-Saxons eat potatoes or Old King Cole smoke a pipe — are called anachronisms, referring something backwards to the wrong time. They have never been much bothered creative artists.

Cecil B. De Mille was feeling ill. Because he couldn't put Moses in the Wars of the Roses.

The Camomile Lawn on television proved a happy hunting ground for anachronistic nit-pickers. Private soldiers in uniform were not allowed to dine in the smarter London restaurants of the period. The air-raid warning evidently never sounded like that. The problem with the screenplay was that unlike the book, it lacked charm.

It would have been an anachronism for Cleopatra's barge to have been depicted as powered by an outboard motor. The word comes from the Greek ana-

chronos, out of time, something late or backward in timing, and means an error in chronology, putting a person, event or period in the wrong period. Shakespeare did not power Cleopatra's barge with an outboard, perhaps because it was not in his excellent source, Plutarch, done into French by Thomas North. But Shakespeare was a master anachronist. In *Henry IV*, just before Falstaff is sent upon by the swelling mob of rogues in buckram, the first carrier exclaims: "God's body, the turkeys in my pannier are quite starved. The turkey had been partially domesticated by the Indians before the official European discovery of North America in 1492, but the silly birds were not imported into Spain before 1519. They were fashionable delicacies when *Henry IV* was written in 1597, but not when *Henry IV* died in the Jerusalem Chamber in 1413. Anachronism.

In *Julius Caesar*, Brutus says to Cassius: "Peace! Count the clock." To which Cassius replies: "The clock has struck three." Clocks were not known to the Romans, and striking-clocks were not invented until some 1,400 years after the death of Caesar. Shakespeare brought cannon into *King John*, introducing them into a rude age where the only missile weapons were bows and arrows.

In *Antony and Cleopatra* Cleopatra says to her girl: "Let it alone. Let's to billiards. Come, Chairman." Chairman replies: "My arm is sore. Best play with Mardon." Cleopatra, suggestively: "As well a woman with an eunuch played / As with a woman, Come, you'll play with me, sir?" It has been explained by po-faced scholars that Shakespeare got the idea that billiards was an Egyptian game, and a favourite pastime of women, from Chapman's *The Blind Beggar of Alexandria* of 1598, about ten years before he wrote *Antony and Cleopatra*: "Go, Aspasia, Send for some ladies to go play with you, / At chess, at billiards and at other game."

No room on the board?

THE EIGHT government ministers and 37 other Tory MPs ejected from the cosy Commons coterie will find cold comfort in the job market outside the Palace of Westminster. Despite hopes of fast economic recovery, leading professional recruitment agencies say failed parliamentarians are difficult to employ at the best of times.

This will be particularly frustrating for retiring Tories who have been forced to recognise since 1979 that captains of industry and chairmen of banking houses can no longer get by with just a colourful old school tie.

"The private sector is now a meritocracy, and there is no room for inexpérience," says John Courtis, a senior recruitment consultant. "The members of parliament who have the most chance are those who have had jobs before. Their stint in the House of Commons are rarely considered to be of merit in today's Britain."

Nevertheless, as in the past, certain companies may offer grace and favour directorships to MPs whose names would grace the company letterhead.

Chris Patten, one presumes, is planning a fast return to the House; Lynda Chalker may head for Brussels as an EC commissioner, and Michael Fallon is tipped to take over as head of the Centre for Policy Studies. But for ousted ministers John Maples and Francis Maude — both of whom had been tipped for cabinet status — top-level appointments may be harder to find.

John Major is going to be able to make it to the much-awaited Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June? The heads of government meeting at the end of the summit was due for June 11 and 12, but it has now been changed to the 13th, following strong complaints from Islamic countries that the event interrupted the Eid al-Adha Muslim festival. This now means there is a clash with trooping the colour. A spokesman for Downing Street says: "Trooping the colour is a fairly solid entry in the diary of the prime minister. We will need to look at this."

Labour now has its own answer to the Tory husband and wife teams, the Bottomleys and the Wintons. Bridget and Gordon Prentice both triumphed in previously Tory-held seats. But their victories may lead to divided loyalties.

Bridget, 39, won Lewisham East from Colin Moynihan, while Gordon, 41, was elected to Pendle, 230 miles away. "Most MPs see their partners only at weekends," says Gordon. "It will be the other way round for us. We will see each other at parliament and our house in Lewisham will be our base in the week." Mrs Prentice plans to join her husband at weekends in

Pendle whenever her political diary permits.

Mrs Prentice began their careers with the same London authority. Indeed they could not imagine working apart.

"I sometimes borrow Bridget's speeches and she has been known to steal some of my lines. We will have to stop that now Parliament is televised," says Gordon.

Brillio!

AS Conservative Central Office celebrated its election victory yesterday, only one thing was missing: John Major's soapbox.

"I think it is still knocking around the back of the battle bus," admitted one party official. It will be rescued. Staff want the box.

MUSEUM!

It's the PM's Soap box or housing for the 90's

GED

advertising agency, has even expressed an interest in using it as a prop in its presentations of political strategy.

Most likely, though, the famous item will be presented as a souvenir to John Major, wrapped in a blue ribbon of course. "I think he will want it. We all became very attached to it in a funny sort of way. There is no way that box will ever be a humble packing case again," said the official.



MR MAJOR'S '100 DAYS'

John Major has won a remarkable victory. Against the odds of historical precedent, he has brought the Conservative party home to its fourth election triumph in a row. He lost seats but held his poll share. The electorate gave him an almighty fright, but then went on to give him a working majority. Mr Major has been a good prime minister. He is now a national leader who has risen to the challenge of combat to beat a strong opponent. He deserves his party's plaudits.

The plainest advice to him now, from all who encouraged him to victory, is that he should press on with the mission begun by his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, in 1979. That mission, left virtually in abeyance since 1990, was to dismantle the corporate state, whose aggrandisement has dominated postwar politics not just in Britain but across Europe. The task is arduous as much as practical. It was made harder by Mrs Thatcher's slowness in implementing her plans, and by a failure on the Tories' part clearly to separate in the public's mind the popular virtues of the welfare state from the unpopular vices of excess government. Affirming these virtues and attacking these vices lies at the root of Mr Major's task.

He must hurry. The Labour party may be wounded but it could revive under a new leader and eat into the 21-strong Tory majority at by-elections. Mr Major may have to face another election before his full term is up. The team he puts together this weekend should be a team suited to fighting again alongside him on the hustings. His Queen's Speech must possess more radicalism than he has yet shown. He should make it a new "Hundred Days" programme of Tory radicalism.

Such a programme must hear the messages of the past year of electoral conflict. The first concerns the true cause of Mr Major's "fright", the state of the economy. Voters appear to have taken the view that, whoever may be to blame for the recession, they would rather be led out of it by a leader committed to the private sector and low taxes than by one committed to the public sector and high ones. But no Tory candidate can have missed the cry of those on whom Britain's recovery depends, that they felt let down by Tory performance over the past 18 months. Interest rates were kept too high for too long in pursuit of Mr Major's ideological conversion to fixed exchange rates and European monetary union.

Few Tories can lay their hands on their hearts and say that the scenario of the 1980s worked to plan: that the supply-side reforms of Thatcherism were so complete that all further economic downturns would be "soft" and constant growth sustainable. Mr Major's (new?) Chancellor may argue that he can play the present recovery long, staging the next boom in time for another election whenever the party wants it. All the more reason for finishing the job on which Mr Major's team were elected to Parliament in 1979: dismantling unjustified monopolies, breaking up and privatising the railway, promoting vocational education, stimulating

rented housing, ending professional restrictive practices. These are not just reforms to be set aside for a rainy day; they are essential if another recovery is not to lead to another slump. Without Mr Major's personal support, Whitehall's inertia will negate by delay what it did under Mrs Thatcher.

There are powerful interest groups that the government must now confront if its micro-economic policies are to work. In the 1980s, many groups — academics, doctors, scientists, lawyers, administrators — came to feel that government was unsympathetic to their vocation and their institutions. Mrs Thatcher confronted organised labour in the private sector mostly by crushing it. Mr Major must confront similar vested interests in the public sector, but his style is that of calm persuasion. He must use it to persuade professionals and other workers in Britain's public sector, in hospitals, schools, universities, public transport, defence, that they too must change, and change fast.

Whatever triumphalism might follow this week's victory, there were accusations that the government did not answer convincingly on the hustings. One was that modern government is still too intrusive, too bullying, too obsessed with centralisation. The Tories' marginally improved showing in Scotland, the result of Mr Major's declared belief in the union, should not lead the party back to its contempt for constitutional reform. The case for a constitutional commission for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is justified on every measure of democracy. The cabinet need not be bound by it, but Tory rule in these regions, as in local government generally, has for 13 years been chaotic and costly. Some consensus on new subsidiary democratic institutions in the United Kingdom is desperately needed.

Such review is well-illustrated by the government's own stance in favour of subsidiarity in Europe. The prime minister now has a clear mandate to pursue his distinctive approach to a Europe of nation states. As recent reports in *The Times* have indicated, Maastricht is starting to unravel in one EC country after another, as politicians and businessmen realise its true implications. Britain has no interest in undermining European co-operation to the detriment of 1993 and the promotion of the internal market. But Britain does have an interest in unravelling Maastricht's centralism, its interventionism in industry, its higher taxes and social costs, and its restricting of Europe's regional economies by fixing prices of commodities and currencies.

Since the prosperity and openness of the Western European economy holds the key to the revival of capitalism in the East and in the Third World, it is hard to think of a more crucial task in the realm of foreign affairs. That task is concentrated on the British presidency of the European Community in the second half of this year. To have deprived Mr Major of the chance of such leadership would have been cruel indeed. Instead the electorate has added to his authority. He is well suited to all these tasks. They begin today.

LABOUR'S RECKONING

Neil Kinnock woke up on Thursday morning confidently preparing for the highest office in the land. He went to bed condemned almost certainly to life as a backbencher. Seldom can hope have been raised so high or dashed so utterly. Yet he has few excuses. The election could not have been fought on ground more favourable for an Opposition. The government was wracked by a recession in part of its own creation. Labour had done everything over seven years to make itself electable, shedding its millstone policies of public ownership, unilateral disarmament and high public spending. But it achieved a swing of little more than 2 per cent nationally. Redistribution will cost the party up to 18 seats at the next election, cancelling out nearly half of last night's gains.

Yesterday predictable left-wing cries were heard that the party drop "designer socialism" in favour of something more fundamental. Few of the party's new leaders have any truck with that. The root of left-wing socialism and communism across the world has happened because such a socialism is not rooted in people's financial ambitions for themselves and their families. This election was almost certainly lost because many floating voters did not believe even the new Labour party had shed this shortcoming. The priority of individualism over collectivism is not a quirk of temporary fashion. The left in Britain has yet to come to terms with this. It must or it will surely die.

Despair is a poor counsellor. Labour lost, but the devastation of its loss was partly a consequence of expectations of victory boosted by Britain's clearly inadequate public opinion polls. Recession was not necessarily Labour's ally: at hard times, voters kept a hold of their Tory nurse for fear of Labour proving worse. Labour gained more than 40 seats compared with 1987. It has put on 1.5 million votes at each of the last two elections, won 11.2 million votes this time compared with 8.2 million in 1983. It seems probable that only a severe late swing to John Major among uncommitted voters stopped Mr Kinnock entering Downing Street.

Labour's first task is to tackle its leadership. Mr Kinnock came through the campaign a decent man, energetic and brave, who had brought his party back from the brink. But he was never a match for Mr Major as a plausible prime minister. He has now failed twice as a vote-giver and seems bound to resign. John Smith, shadow Chancellor and current heir apparent, regularly outstripped his leader as the public's preferred prime minister. Mr Smith, or Gordon Brown from the younger generation, could yet cause Mr Major trouble.

Mr Smith must do more than just take over his party. He must show that he has

heard the voters' verdict on his apparently vote-losing alternative budget with its tax burden on higher incomes. Labour dare not again appear as the party of penal taxation of the moderately well-off. Such archaisms merely loses it not only the votes of the wealthy but also of those with middle incomes who aspire to be high earners. The electorate may tell pollsters that they prefer high public expenditure, even if it means higher taxes. But in the privacy of the booths, the cross clearly goes the other way.

The future of the left in Britain is no longer just about the fate of the Labour party. It now embraces the Liberal Democrats and many supporters of the nationalist cause. Even in a more classless society, there is a role for a broad party of working class "empowerment", of an alternative non-metropolitan establishment, and of radical redistribution. The Conservatives in their highly centralised state have left a gap for such a movement. Its philosophy would centre on devolution, subsidiarity and local autonomy. It would be greenish, pro-women and ethnic minorities.

But the most urgent and difficult issue facing the left is that of the institutional relationship, or lack of it, between the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties themselves. Under the pressure of a hung parliament, it was clear that any possibility of a coalition government would have been between these two rather than with the Conservatives. There was evidence in Thursday's results of some tactical voting, with Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters backing whichever party had the best chance of throwing out the Conservative.

The leaders of the two parties have to decide whether they wish to fight each other year in year out, possibly condemned for another generation to opposition, or to start a process which brings them closer together. Leading Labour politicians such as Jack Cunningham and Robin Cook were yesterday beginning to hint at their common ground with the Liberal Democrats, notably on electoral reform and proportional representation. More will be heard of this, though any agreement will remain academic as long as neither party can gain power under the existing electoral system.

Formal alliance is not practical at present. But there is no reason why Labour and Liberal Democrat parties locally should not carve up towns, cities, even counties between them, as some Liberals and Conservatives did earlier this century. Such deals are best reached locally. They are a recognition of the identity of policy and interest between groups of voters locally. They institutionalise tactical voting by sharing out its spoils. At present, they offer the only hope of any party ousting the repeatedly victorious Conservatives.

Why Labour lost, what the Conservatives must do

From Lord Shawcross

Sir, Now that the election is over the inquest is in full swing. May I, writing still as a crossbencher, add my nonagenarian note?

I believe a basic reason for Labour's humiliating defeat was that Mr Kinnock had forgotten Abraham Lincoln's dictum that whilst "you may fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, you cannot fool all of the people all of the time".

The Labour party chose as its basic issue the National Health Service and it was based on a lie. There is no doubt much that is wrong with the health service. It may be that the Tory-government's present policy for it is mistaken. But the general public statement that the government intended to "privatise" the service was untrue.

On polling day there were two main whole-page advertisements in the newspapers. The Labour party's own advertisement called on voters to "vote today to save the NHS" — this in enormous letters — and added: "This election is a referendum on the National Health Service".

The second advertisement — one of a series — was by Nalgo, the trade union desperately anxious to regain its measure of control over the NHS. The Labour party's depiction of surgeons round an operating table asking the patient "Will be cash or credit card, sir?" Both these advertisements were basically untrue and thoughtful voters rejected them.

The second, but possibly more fundamental, point was the rapidity of Mr Kinnock's conversion from socialism to social democracy. I was myself converted but my conversion occurred whilst I was a member of a socialist government actively concerned in administration and anxious that we should remain efficient.

Over the four years of actual experience, especially in the comparatively short time I was in charge of trade and industry, I came to realise that nationalisation and centralised controls simply were not working, and said so. I saw the light 40 years before Mr Kinnock! Mr Kinnock's conversion took place after three defeats at national elections.

It is not so long ago that he said he stood by clause 4 in the Labour constitution, which still requires nationalisation of the means of production, transport and exchange. Nor since he condemned going into Europe or maintaining nuclear defences. The electorate perhaps smelt a whiff of opportunism about this sudden conversion.

This was an election about many wide issues with worldwide recession and other grave international problems. Mr Kinnock was carefully shielded from dealing with them. But where in all these four weeks was the Shadow foreign secretary?

The electors realised that the election was far more than a referen-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

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'Philistine' deal on County Hall sale

From Sir Hugh Casson

Sir,

All lovers of London and of County Hall will welcome the letter (March 30) from Sir Ian McLeod protesting at the scandalous decision of the government to allow the sale of this magnificent building to the highest bidder, irrespective of its future use — in this case conversion into a luxury hotel.

Never mind that a "get-out clause" permits a new government to pull out of the deal after the election (report, March 24); Mr Heseltine's consent lies firmly in the tradition of Tory aesthetic policies.

Both the construction of the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane in 1958 and the demolition of the Euston Arch in 1962 were authorised by Conservative ministries, over-ruling the strongest objections expressed by the Royal Fine Art Commission; and it has only just been revealed that Crosby Hall, the 15th-century building once owned by Sir Thomas More, was secretly sold four years ago for conversion into a private house.

This familiar combination of philistine judgments and secretive deals is, I suggest, an insulting underestimate of our feelings for the buildings and spaces we enjoy.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH CASSON,
6 Hereford Mansions,
Hereford Road, W.2.

April 10.

From Mr Michael Rowan

Sir,

Is it not a strange paradox that the poll tax, which was being blamed by Conservatives for their poor showing in the opinion polls, is now being blamed by Labour for having inhibited their potential voters from registering (report, later editions, April 10)? Clearly an ill tax which does no one any good.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL ROWAN,

80 New Kings Road, SW6.

April 10.

From Dr Eric MacFarlane

Sir,

Among all the post-election analysis and evaluation one message, comes through clearly and strongly: no party that seeks to appeal to the nation's conscience is electable in the current climate of materialism and self-interest.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC MACFARLANE,

Berkeley House, Church Lane,

Old Basing,

Basingstoke, Hampshire.

April 10.

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir,

On BBC television on the night of the 1955 general election David Butler, after hearing the first four results, was able to give an accurate forecast of the actual Conservative majority, much to the surprise of Richard Dimbleby. He used a pocket calculator.

Last night the first five results

showed a swing to Labour of 2 per cent. This made it clear to most people who understood the political game that the Conservatives would have an overall majority.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD LAMB,

Knighton Manor, Broadchalke,

Salisbury, Wiltshire.

April 10.

From Mr Terence O'Brien

Sir,

Most British voters are supid. They say what they want proportional representation but when offered the chance to oust a party that refuses this they then split their votes of opposition and so lose that chance.

Most Conservative party members are stupid. They want all their major policies put into effect but when given the chance to oust a party which rejects these they then split their votes of opposition and so lose that chance.

Most Conservative party members are intelligent. They see the divided opposition and so, by leaving sacrosanct a voting system which keeps them in unfeasted power, they will reign for ever.

Yours truly,

TERENCE O'BRIEN,

Innisfree, Seal Square,

Selsey, Chichester, Sussex.

April 10.

From Mr Hugh David

Sir,

At every significant moment during the BBC's all-night general election results coverage, my cat was spectacularly sick on the carpet.

May I, through your columns, announce his availability as a pundit in any future election programmes?

Yours,

HUGH DAVID,

37d Albert Square, SW8.

April 10.

From Mr Peter Riddell

Sir,

The Times' article (article, March 31) about the reluctance of those in business to become involved in the democratic process highlights a problem which the (non-partisan and non-lobbying) Industry and Parliament Trust was specifically founded to address. Over 800 senior executives of major enterprises in the private and public sectors, it states:

... we believe that it is essential for the health of the democratic process that political service be regarded as part of community service.

Yours etc.

F. R. HYDE-CHAMBERS (Director),

Industry and Parliament Trust,

1 Buckingham Place, SW1.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID WHEELTON,

Managing Director,

The Philharmonia Orchestra,

76 Great Portland Street, W1.

April 10.

From the Managing Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra

Sir,

There is no prospect of the Philharmonia Orchestra being "squeezed" by the London Philharmonic Orchestra as Richard Morrison suggests.

Under the terms of the Tolley report the Philharmonia enjoys a planning agreement with the management of the Royal Festival Hall which enables the orchestra to promote a subscription season of 45 concerts, fully rehearsed in the hall. At least half the concerts fall on prime mid-week dates.

I believe Richard Morrison is being

JULIAN HERBERT

The good life begins with the age of contentment

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DON'T tell the young, but the best years of life belong to the elderly, according to a team of psychologists.

The popular vision of old age as a time of weariness and decline is based on a mistaken view of the values that older people hold. Research presented to the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Scarborough yesterday shows that elderly people are more satisfied with their lives than the young when assessed against what they themselves judge important. They rate themselves as less happy, but count happiness as a trivial emotion of small consequence.

The research, by John Browne and colleagues of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, found that people's values change as they age. Relationships and feelings are the things that matter in youth. Elderly people are more concerned with the state of their homes, social activities and religion.

But, the doctors say, most surveys miss the enjoyment that many people find in old age because they make assumptions, which most elderly do not share, about the quality of life. Questions about how often people see friends and relatives, for example, assume that more frequent meetings mean greater satisfaction. But some old people prefer to keep their own company.

Similar yardsticks of income, work or sexual activity are irrelevant to many, yet they contribute to the dismal vision of ageing as a period of inevitable decline. But when quality of life is assessed on what old people themselves say is important, a different

picture emerges. The study of 60 people with an average age of 73 and 42 people with an average age of 29, showed that the young were concerned with work, money and friendships, while the elderly ignored those areas in favour of religion, leisure activities and living conditions. On that basis, the elderly rated their lives more satisfactory.

"We are not saying their objective circumstances are better, but their subjective experiences are more positive than the negative stereotypes would have you believe," Mr Browne said. "Their concerns have changed. When you are younger you constantly worry about what you are going to achieve," he said. "Older people base their judgements about satisfaction on what they have achieved."

The study concludes there is no such thing as the good life — only good lives.

□ Enormous changes in the pattern of family life over the last 20 years appear to have had no impact on children's perceptions of the traditional family unit, according to another study presented to the conference.

In spite of the increase in divorce, the rise in one-parent families and the growth in mothers going out to work, young children persist in picturing fathers mending the car or playing with the computer while mother does the cooking.

Margaret O'Brien of the Polytechnic of East London, asked 75 children aged 5 to 11 to talk about their families and draw pictures. Fathers were mentioned first in stories and mothers were more often associated with domestic chores.



Windows of opportunity: As dawn breaks over Conservative Central Office in London's Smith Square, every available vantage point is taken by flag-waving party workers eager to welcome their triumphant leader home from the battle

Major plans reshuffle today

Continued from page 1
day that he could not say when the country would come out of recession but the election victory had been a necessary precursor of recovery.

After Labour had highlighted the National Health Service during the election campaign, Mr Major made a point of saying that his government would "continue to build up and cherish the NHS", reaffirming his commitment that it would not be privatised while he was in Downing Street.

The opinion pollsters, meanwhile, admitted their biggest embarrassment in years. In their final surveys before the election none had come anywhere near the 8 per cent lead achieved by the

Conservatives. Nick Moon, the political research director for NOP, said the election was the worst result for pollsters since polling began.

"It's a very big embarrassment, no doubt about that," he said. "One possibility was that we were polling in the wrong places."

As the inquests began over Labour's performance Mr Kinnock's senior colleagues were anxious to give their leader time to make his own decisions about his political future. All acknowledged the his immense contribution to Labour's recovery, but many privately acknowledge that the party will not win an election while he is in charge.

Labour issued a warning yesterday about a potential

crisis in Scottish politics, claiming that the Conservatives had received no election mandate to rule in Scotland. Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, urged the government not to "try the patience of Scotland beyond breaking point" and promised that Labour would press for constitutional change with renewed urgency. Speaking in Glasgow, Mr Dewar dismissed suggestions that tensions within the party could lead to a breakaway by the Scottish wing.

In an important sense this time, the country has let the pollsters down. If we pundits are to do our job properly, we need the co-operation of the electorate and the politicians next time. Someone must impress upon the voters the importance of not changing

The country's electors let the pollsters down

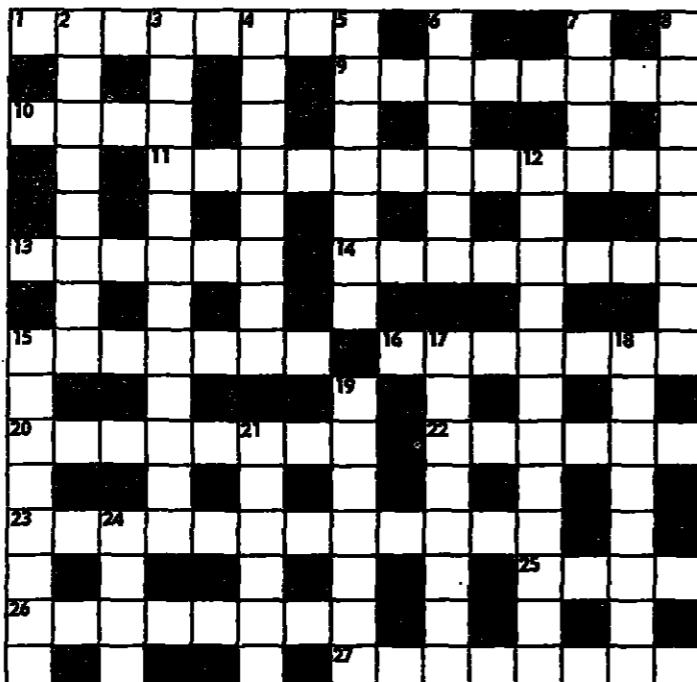
Continued from page 1
their minds after they have spoken to polling organisations. To do this so fast, and so late in the campaign was unforgivable.

And someone should explain to the Labour party that if it wants to win an election then — once it becomes confident in it — it is vital not to communicate this confidence to the voters.

I have reviewed the disparities between what we pundits said and what you voters did. I have regrettably concluded that you do not deserve us. You have proved a great embarrassment.

Ivor Crewe, page 5
Bob Worcester, page 16
election supplement, page IX

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,890



ACROSS

- 1 Prevented from flying, like rooks initially (8).
- 9 Write off for a sort of lock (8).
- 10 Lover's knot, say (4).
- 11 Commanding position taken just before game's decided (7,5).
- 13 Sophisticated opening of essay on Pope (6).
- 14 Aware it's prudent (6).
- 15 Inside pitcher is hidden treasure (7).
- 16 Make last car trip abroad (4,3).
- 20 Victim of street fighting sorted out crime (8).
- 22 Always having inside information about this business (6).
- 23 Mediator finding her rent-books out of order (6,6).
- 25 Looking very black for two of Ohio's neighbours (4).
- 26 Given up, in ironbound state (8).
- 27 About to name, on oath, English outlaw (8).

DOWN

- 2 Span requiring extra cunning (8).

Concise Crossword, page 38
Weekend Times

Solution to Puzzle No 18,884

SCRAMBLED	TACIT	RANCID	LANGUISH
ECAI	SHRW	PUE	IOPO
APOSTLE	FORBONE	CANTILEVER	SHOT
SSCGOICE		CAUSE	TEU
HITCH	ZRAFOUND	TEENAGER	HATING
ABMMSE		DE	PE
NATIONAL	STOP	TEAR	ONRECORD
TOKXNMSSTE		MUM	MONHE
YEAR	BOOKREST	CORNWALL	ABLE
SECRETI	U	LNSA	SAFE
AUTOGRAPH	TIGAL	PLEIGHT	TYPEFACE
GRTY	BT	BEVY	LIEUTENANT
LOAFERS	AILERON	NLL	LEGCT
OCOSU	LEGCT	STALWART	YAHOOES
WAKES	PALESTINE		

3 Recently arrived, cher? (7,5).

4 Monarch involved in some golf or other game (6).

5 Father and son, in the end, joined artistic movement (7).

6 Encitement to begin running or join in play (4-2).

7 Bird unable to take off fruit (4).

8 Testable in crash, is it? (4-4).

12 Sport in which East repeatedly dominates area (12).

13 Part of engine arrived incomplete — needs second handle (8).

17 Found in timber over 100 tiny organisms (8).

18 Extremely rare Scot's remarkable! Agreed? (8).

19 From Land's End, reported person attacking vessel (7).

21 Superficial design for military display (6).

24 Standard choice of extremes in nationalism (4).

Answers on page 18

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THE TIMES WEATHERMAP

For the latest regional weather forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0831 500 followed by the appropriate code.

London 1000

1008

1016

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Rebirth of a river



Many of our most famous waters are dying as decades of abstraction and pollution take their toll. Robin Young reports on a project to rescue the historic River Ver

Michael Drayton, the Tudor poet, described the River Ver in Hertfordshire as "a famous ancient flood" navigable by "great burthen'd ships". Drayton, no doubt, took full benefit of poetic licence, but it is an undoubted fact that the Ver, a tributary of the Colne which runs eventually into the Thames, once powered 11 watermills and supported a Hertfordshire watercress industry with a score of lush green cress beds spread through its valley.

Now you look in vain for the Ver where it used to rise at Flamstead. There the short-lived rivulet down part of the watercourse consists entirely of effluent from a sewage treatment works, and even that peters out in a damp ditch after running only a couple of hundred yards.

In many places along the Ver, the river bed is completely dry and has been for months; the winterbourne reach starting from Kensworth Lynch water has not flowed since 1987.

All the Ver's upper reaches are reduced, at best, to an intermittent trickle. At River Hill, Flamstead, the ford used to be 30ft wide and 4ft deep. Now the stream there is 18in wide and 4in deep. At Friars Wash as recently as 1953 the local point-to-point had water jumps across the river 6-8ft wide. Today there is no water.

The Ver is only one of southern Britain's dying rivers. From the Wallop Brook in Hampshire to the Little Ouse in the Fens, streams whose names evoke the well-watered countryside of times past are drying up and disappearing. Like the Pang in Berkshire, the Wey in Hampshire, the Chess and the Misbourne in Buckinghamshire, the Darent between Sevenoaks and Dartford in Kent, and many, many more, the Ver, which passes through Verulam Park in St Albans, is on the danger list.

This week, launching the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's Water for Wildlife campaign, Sir David Attenborough drew particular attention to the plight of the Ver. "Even if it rained from now till October more heavily than it has ever rained in recorded time," he said, "the Ver would not get enough water to enable it to flow properly. Where there were once kingfishers, bulrushes and reeds there is now dry parched land."

As he was speaking it was raining. At Shafford Mill, the glistening rainwater on the dried bed of the millpond attracted two swans back to their former home. They paddled briefly and disconsolately on the rain-soaked surface before flying away again, leaving only their footprints in the mud.

Sir David warned that native British plants such as cuckoo flower, snakeshead fritillary and bog rosemary could be lost forever, and once common birds such as the lapwing and snipe are threatened as their wetland habitats dry up.

And now, in the very park that carries the ancient name of Verulamum, which the Ver donated to St Albans, the river is already on a life-support system. The

National Rivers Authority says that almost 70 per cent of the

carefully embanked water by which the townspeople walk to feed the park's ducks and swans comes most of the time not from springs, but from the pumped and piped supplies of Lee Valley Water in "compensation" for water the company has taken from higher up the Ver valley, where its Friars Wash station pumps ground water to the Vauxhall factories in Luton.

A waterflow gauging station has been installed on the lower Ver at Hantshead Weir, near the confluence with the Colne at Bricket Wood. When the flow there drops below 3 million gallons for three consecutive days, the "compensation water" tap is opened at St Michael's Bridge in St Albans, just below Kingsbury Mill, which was mentioned in Domesday and is now a watermill museum.

The object of compensation is to maintain the level of the park's stream and lakes, but even with the supplementary piped water the flow is sluggish and not sufficient to keep the water adequately oxygenated for fish to live long. Recently the compensation tap has been running virtually non-stop.

Last week, immediately above St Michael's Bridge and the piped water inlet there was not enough water to float a paper boat, let alone turn Kingsbury's historic water-wheel. Downstream from the park things are not much better. Holwell, where legend had it that King Arthur's father, Uther Pendragon, bathed to heal his wounds, is no longer a miraculous spring but another pumping station. Opposite, in front of the Duke of Marlborough pub, where there should be a pond, there is an expanse of mud decorated with empty lager cans.

The Ver is in the area worst affected by recent years of drought. There has been a hosepipe ban in the area served by the Three Valleys Water Services (whose subsidiaries include Lee Valley) for the past two years. In the Thames Water region half the entire rainfall has to be recycled to maintain water supplies.

The Ver was almost extinct long before the present drought. The Ver Valley Society has been campaigning to save the river since 1976, when it was formed to help create a riverside walk as part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's silver jubilee. That was also the drought year in which the stream dried up. The VVS has been monitoring the river's plight ever since.

The local people blame not the drought, but the muddle and make-do methods of water management, which permitted the Ver valley's water to be appropriated for the benefit of people who live on the other side of the hills.

The Friars Wash pumping station bore hole was sunk in 1953 to take ground water out of the Ver valley and lift it over to Luton. When Luton has finished with it, the water is not returned to the Ver, but flushed away down the River Lee.

The National Rivers Authority says that almost 70 per cent of the



STEPHEN MARKSON



As time goes by: the once-fine Ver (above left) is now a trickle (right). Top, today at Shafford Mill a "Bathing and Fishing Prohibited" sign overlooks the empty millpond.

average annual recharge of the chalk in the 130 square kilometres of the river Ver catchment area has to be taken for public water supplies.

The river Ver has suffered increasingly from the extent of ground-water pumping over the past 30 years," Alan Connell, the NRA's spokesman, says. "Abstractions were authorised by Act of Parliament many years ago, before licensing began in 1965. Today the NRA would not grant such licences."

Today the problem is aggravated severely because Hertfordshire has not been getting anything like the average annual rainfall, or even 70 per cent of it which is required to keep pace with the public's water needs.

Lee Valley Water's managing director, Jim McGowen, says: "We live in an area currently facing one of the worst droughts in living memory. In the last two years we have had only six months of average or above average rainfall. This winter has been even drier."

The consequences are plain to

see. "I taught my son to swim here when he was four," Judy Green says, eyeing the 9in stream in her garden at Dohol Lodge, Sopwell.

"An adult could not stand up in the stream in winter, it was so fast," John, her husband, adds.

The couple have built extra steps down to reach the water that remains. Across the road, the flow that once turned the wheel at Sopwell Mill for papermaking in the 17th century and corn-grinding in the 19th is not even sufficient to clear away the burgeoning green cloak of blanket weed that has arrived with the spring. Sopwell's millrace has become a clogged and stagnant trench, a receptacle for litter and a haven for vermin, which regularly has to be dredged by the public health authorities.

Mrs Green is the VVS's bailiff organiser, in charge of a dozen volunteers who carry out monthly inspections of lengths of the river to report on its depth and flow (if any) and visible effects on the local ecology.

There are still moorhens and occasionally mallards at the bottom

of her garden, but the last kingfisher gave up six months ago. Where once there were brown trout, predominantly stillwater fish such as sticklebacks and bullheads are now struggling to survive.

At Shafford Mill, until recently a good nesting site for dabchicks and tufted duck, a large painted sign warns: "Bathing and Fishing Prohibited". It stands redundant above an empty millpond where the mud has dried and cracked.

David Scott, the VVS's vice-chairman says: "They took the last dozen trout out of the puddle under the mill in February. They were all dead."

Originally the old Thame Water Authority wanted to tackle the Ver's low-flow problem by sinking yet another borehole just upstream of the confluence, and piping the water from there back up to the riverhead to flow down again with three augmentation points on the way.

Such a scheme would have cost £6 million, and the VVS opposed it

as a "garden fountain" plan which would do nothing to correct the lowered water table.

The NRA has now agreed to implement a scheme to save the Ver devised by Dr Ted Hollis, a hydrologist from University College, London, and a VVS member.

At a cost of £2.5 million new pipelines will be installed to bring water to Luton and Dunstable from the Grahams reservoir near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, instead of from the Ver catchment. Friars Wash pumping station will in future only be used when no other source is available, to top-up supplies during times of peak demand and emergencies.

Giles Phillips, the NRA's catchment control manager, says: "This will allow the water table to rise in the underground chalk, securing the flow in the river Ver and, over a period of time, returning it to the currently dried-up sections."

Co-operation, not confrontation, has been the way forward to this compromise solution, Peggy Pollok, the VVS chairman, says, "but we were clear that what we wanted was not just water running down the river bed. We want to see the water table and the wetland habitats of springs, ponds and wet meadows that are part of our heritage, fully restored and preserved".

There used to be kingfishers and irises, bulrushes, osier beds and watermeadows lower down. Snipe, rare visitors lately, were once common and other waders, such as sandpipers and redshank, were regularly seen.

Come back, woe-water. All is forgiven. Contrary to the old nickname, there would be great joy if it ever flowed again.

the Moor, for its centrepiece. Old postcards show children fishing with rod and line.

The Red, a tributary of the Ver, took its name from the reeds that for centuries lined its course. These days it is little more than a ditch which occasionally flows with road surface water.

Still, hope, if not water, springs eternal. Down near the Ver's confluence with the Colne, where a depth gauge at present stands pointlessly on dry land, a newly arrived landowner is talking of schemes to reintroduce otters, and at Redbournbury, where the only water is a stranded pond, new owners are planning to restore their watermill to working order and to use it to grind flour.

When the Ver had a winterbourne at its head, the superstition was that the bourse would flow once every seven years. Now at Kensworth Lynch, where the bourse should start, there is barely enough water to fill a garden pond.

The manor house at Markyate Cell, used in the Margaret Lockwood film *The Wicked Lady*, has lost its lake, Wells, which used to indicate the level of the water table, have been dry for years. The bourse last flowed after exceptionally heavy rains in 1987, so by the old rule of thumb it should be back in 1994.

Local legend has it that when the bourse did flow it would presage some great calamity. For that reason the intermittent flow from Kensworth Lynch was referred to as "the woe-water".

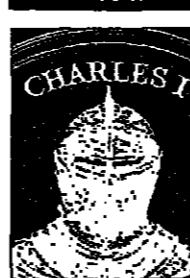
Come back, woe-water. All is forgiven. Contrary to the old nickname, there would be great joy if it ever flowed again.

EASTER TREATS PAGES 30, 31



100 excellent reasons why you should take the children out into the spring sunshine this Easter

1642 MEMENTO PAGE 37



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FILM

LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin. Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743). Rehearsal (071-837 8402).

LA BELLE NOISEUSE — DIVERTIMENTO (18): Fascinating two-hour digest of Jacques Rivette's epic about the painter, his model and an unfinished canvas. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart. Minima (071-235 5026).

BUGS (18): Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666). Mezzanine (0426 915683). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2722). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CAPE FEAR (18): Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). Empire (071-497 9999). MGM Baker Street (071-935 4355). Hill (071-435 3366).

HOOK (U): Up-growing Peter Pan returns to Neverland to fight Captain Hook. Much kid-pleasing spectacle, but little magic. With Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman; director, Steven Spielberg. Barbican (071-638 8891). MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772). MGM Chelsea (071-836 5096). Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666). Marble Arch (0426 914501). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

KIKUCHI: Days in the barren life of a laundry attendant. Quietly hilarious minimalist fare from Japanese comic-strip illustrator Kenji Iwamoto. ICA (071-930 3647).

KUFF (15): Immature police station officer (Christian Slater) avenges the death of his older brother, Flashy but feeble cop comedy. Director, Bruce A. Evans.

MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). Odeon Oxford Street (071-636 0310). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

LIGHT SLEEPER (15): Luridly eloquent to the Eighties drug scene from writer-director Paul Schrader. With William Dafoe, Susan Sarandon. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

MEET THE FEBBLES (18): Adorable Muppet-style puppet movie, aimed at adults entirely juvenile in humour. Directed by New Zealand's Peter Jackson in 1990. MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). MGM Pantomime Street (071-930 0631).

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking but aggravating. With River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443). MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561). MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 627 7023). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

EVENINGS OUT

POLLY DEVLIN

AUTHOR



The amazing theatre group, Théâtre de Complicité, is doing *A Winter's Tale* at the Lyric Hammersmith. It's a fascinating play, and the set designer, Ariane Gaspard, decorated my children's bedrooms, so it's an added bonus that someone whose work I really admire is doing the sets.

Apparently *The Double Life of Véronique* is the most marvellous movie. Irène Jacob is a brilliant actress and the Polish director Kieślowski is a great film-maker. I'm also going to see *Barton Fink*. I think the Coen brothers are geniuses. Everyone says how empty their films are, but I don't care. If you can film and cut like that you can be as empty as you like. 9

director, Phil Joanou. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). MGM Shepherds Bush Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Plaza (071-497 9999). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (12): Heart-warming lives of festy folks down South. With Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson; director, Jon Avnet. Odeon: Haymarket (0426 915353). Kensington (0426 914666). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's master of camp, Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril, Marisa Paredes. Gate (071-727 4043). Lumière (071-836 0691). MGM Chelsea (071-832 5096). Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

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THEATRE

LONDON

THE ALCHEMIST: Jonathan Hyde and Philip Voss head a grand cast in Jonson's satire, transferring to a larger stage after last year's sell-out at the Swan, Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Preview tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-Union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Coventry), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 7pm.

BACK UP THE HAIRSE AND LET THEM SMELL THE FLOWERS: The art of the salesman: William Gammie's comedy points out the tricks but simplifies deeper issues. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness. Choreographed, directed and staged by Billy Wilson. Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

CUT AND TRUST: Crisis in the NHS: latest of Patrick Prior's hit miss political comedies. Theatre Royal, Gerry Rafferty Square, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310). Preview Mon, 8pm, opens Tues, 8pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

THE DARK RIVER: An accomplished revival of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama about naivety and nostalgia in England drifting towards war. Directed by Sam Waters. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Arie. Dorfman's Chilean political drama (with a new cast from April 18). Duke of York's St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE MAGIC RIDDLE (U): Playful jumble of fairy-tales by Australian cartoon-maker Yoram Gross. Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666). Mezzanine (0426 915683). Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

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GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8pm.

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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

TELEVISION

23

Little gems in the compost heap



Lynne Truss forks over Friday night, a bare-ish patch nourished only by the attentions of Geoff Hamilton of *Gardeners' World*

For people who never go out, Friday evening at 8.30 is an important, make-or-break time of the week. Having watched television from Saturday to Thursday, the dreary stop-at-home reaches Friday in a parched and ragged state; and she inevitably looks to Friday's programmes as a source of mental refreshment. "O, for a draught of vintage! that hath been cold a long age in the deep-delved earth..." (She waxes Keatsian.) "O, for a beaker full of the warm South..."

A bad drought on a Friday, then, is a terrible disappointment, and leaves her wondering aloud what domestic lime-de-scalar tastes like. "That I might drink," she sobs, rather pointedly, "and leave the world unseen".

Thank goodness for *Gardeners' World* (BBC2), then. Barnsdale is where the weekend starts in my house — which is odd, really, for someone who has never knowingly set hand on much. The thing about *Gardeners' World* is that it somehow stands outside the normal television experience, and operates perfectly as a personal stimulant restorative. Its effect is calming and inspiring at the same time. For 30 minutes, all one's cynicism about the collective death wish of bedding plants is swept aside on a tide of compost and confidence.

Geoff Hamilton takes a cutting from a lupin, prunes it to within an inch of its life, pokes it into a red flowerpot filled with brown stuff, and *knows it will live*. What a man! I particularly admire the way he always has a polythene bag to hand when he needs one.

The announcement a few months ago that *Gardeners' World* was to receive a "new look" from an independent production company left its fans with mixed feelings, and a few anguished questions. Would the larky old diddly-diddie-dee theme music go? (It went.) Would last year's strange and ghoulish planting tips from Nigel Colbourn bite the dust? (They did.) Would there still be lots of close-ups of Geoff cheerfully pruning those innocent lupin-cuttings, and saying "And there's a job well done"? (Yes. Hooray!) And would Geoff's rugged, all-weather bow-legged jeans (which could surely stride across the plots at Barnsdale without him) get a special "Geoff's Jeans" slot of their own? (No. Sadly.) The

REVIEW

changes for the new series (now in its eighth week) can perhaps be best divined from the new-look title sequence. Instead of the old flower-heads dancing jauntily in the breeze, we now have cool green garden geometry to the sound of classical guitar — overhead images of gardeners on curved paths, or a child running past a segment of round pond. It looks a lot more sophisticated (more BBC2, if you know what I mean), but its main purpose, I think, is to humanise the garden: it reminds you that lupin propagation is not an end in itself. The problem with the work ethic of Geoff and Co is that they are always so busy planting things and digging them up again that they never have time to think green thoughts in a green shade.

So the new series includes more stuff about the look, feel and smell of gardens, supplementing the familiar nitty-gritty items about — well, nitty grit. Persuading Geoff to sip mint tea in a deckchair is going to be a trickier job, because I fear he will always be jumping up to toss compost on a pitchfork.

Recently, there was a shot of him lounging awkwardly on the edge of a raised bed (what a pleasant place to sit, he beamed insincerely), but you could tell he was unhappy with this enforced idleness. He couldn't wait to dart off and sort out his tomatoes. "No time to relax today," he said quickly, springing up with a whoop of relief. Nice of him, though, to pretend for our benefit that he ever relaxes at all.

My theory about the perpetual motion of Hamilton is that he dare not stop for fear of taking root and turning instantly into a tree

(even if the transformation would make fantastic television).

Of course, *Gardeners' World* is really a magazine programme with lots of features: Geoff's struggle against metamorphosis makes up only a smallish part. This year, there is an on-going story about a family in a south London suburb who are attempting to reconstruct a Gertrude Jekyll garden (with almost no data to go on, unless a helpful viewer finds the original plans in a kitchen cupboard). There are also book reviews, plus the usual visits to growers and celebrities, where the brisk expertise of Dr Stefan Buccazza has been traded in for the more ooh-la-la reactions of Liz Rigby. The most homely item of the eight weeks involved Martyn Lewis and a bucket of lion dung, but I'll say no more.

On the more progressive side, there is a new "Cook's Garden" feature in which Lynda Brown tells us to grow shallots, garlic and fancy leeks, blissfully unaware that she is probably alienating many of the fuddy-duddy *Gardeners' World* audience, who don't believe in mucking about with food.

Let me assure you,

time. The man is a miracle. A few niggling questions are bound to present themselves: why should one bloke want such a lot of plants? Who does the watering when he goes on holiday? But the devoted fan sweeps these aside. I no longer even question the usefulness of a 30-second demonstration of potato-planting: I will never grow a potato, probably, so I let it lie.

But I suspect this is the principal pleasure of watching *Gardeners' World* anyway: that it allows you to pretend that in previous seasons we would have seen a man set light to a bush just to raise its scent.

Meanwhile, the real shock of the new series is the plain speaking of gardener Christine Walkden, who tells us to tidy up alpines when they start to look poxy.

But however widely *Gardeners' World* may roam, Barnsdale is its heart and fascination: Barnsdale, with its epic symbiosis of man and landscape. So much to do, so little

get some). And then dib it into a pot and leave it in the greenhouse at 68 degrees." (*Greenhouse? That's torn it. What a shame!*)

I enjoy this interaction, nevertheless. I like to get involved. When Geoff asks us all to have a look for those missing Gertrude Jekyll garden plans, I was down to the shed in no time, waving the torch about. When the "Name the Iris" competition was launched, I spent a whole weekend trying to come up with something more interesting than "Festival Crown" (which won). But mostly, I just try to imagine daily life at Barnsdale, and I snatch at clues.

Recently, Geoff was telling us about a new cloche that costs £90,

and he let slip a great pearl: "Yes, they are expensive," he said, "but I know I'd forgo a few Indian take-aways." I could hardly believe my ears. Does Geoff Hamilton eat Indian take-aways? He surely never tires of home-grown veg?

PREVIEW

● Sleepers

(Mon and Wed, BBC2, 9pm) This very welcome repeat of last year's enjoyable, comic spy-thriller stars Nigel Havers and Warren Clarke as two Russian agents sent to England in 1966 (under cover of the World Cup) and then left to "sleep" for 25 years. The scripts are witty, and the general level of comic performance (from Michael Gough, David Calder, Joanna Kanika) quite wonderful. The four-part series has been edited into two episodes of 90 minutes each — "specially-edited", actually, which sounds a bit ominous. Let's hope they didn't just cut out the jokes.

The joke at the heart of *Sleepers*, of course, was that the two Russian agents had become quintessentially English — Clarke as a family-man and shop steward in Eccles, Havers as a City whizz-kid with a share in a racehorse and expensive tastes in leather upholstery. Thus, the fact that the two actors spoke in normal English accents, played normal English roles and used everyday English argot ("I could kill you, you stupid bastard"), came across as very clever, a tribute to the excellence of their cover. The shared-joke sensation is similar, one imagines, to the effect on Shakespeare's groundlings of *As You Like It*, when they watched a man playing a woman playing a man.

● Noel's Addicts

(Tues, BBC1, 7.30pm) The billing in *Radio Times* for this new Noel Edmonds series ends with a note: "If you are a collector, or if you are obsessed with a subject, write to *Noel's Addicts*, BBC Birmingham B5 7QQ". What a marvellous and footloose invitation. The programme is looking, of course, for good-sport common folk who can't seem to stop collecting milk bottles or underpants and who are willing to show off their *idee fixe* on prime-time TV. I heard of a chap who collected barbed wire. He is just the person they are looking for.

But they have asked obsessives to write in and is it jolly pleasant to think of the inevitable results: heavy mailbags hurling Noel-wards up the M1, scorching the landscape as they pass. Ha ha serves them right. "Dear Noel, There is nuclear fallout in my starting boards. It comes out at night, and nobody believes me..." "Dear Noel, I have for the past ten years been rather preoccupied by the fact that Gregory Peck and Dirk Bogarde never appear in public together. I think they are the same person, but nobody will admit it..."

If there is such a thing as natural justice, the country's obsessives ought to slow the *Noel's Addicts* team to a complete standstill, and scupper the series before too much harm is done.

L.T.



The Truss theory of gardener Hamilton's perpetual motion: he dare not stop for fear of taking root and turning instantly into a tree

Sex and the student set

A double murder challenges two young academics tomorrow in the BBC mystery *A Masculine Ending*

The BBC schedules seem to have lost none of their lunatic wit. On Palm Sunday they are treating viewers to *A Masculine Ending* (BBC1) — a Christmas tale from the academic set in Cambridge. The Backs are alive to the sound of music — carols from King's, of course — but a pretty female student from St Mark's is mixing herself a toxic cocktail of barbiturates and booze. Her body is found on Boxing day after complaints about the drains.

Meanwhile, across the Channel, Dr Loretta Lawson — a lecturer from London University who specialises in linguistics, "the nit-picking end of English studies" — is addressing a conference on the subject of the masculine ending in French and German.

When she returns to the Parisian pied-à-terre borrowed from a colleague she discovers that she has been sharing it with a stuffer.

A visit to her friend Dr Bennett — "you name it, I'll deconstruct it" — convinces her that the two deaths are connected and thus begins a complicated caper involving the proof copy of a highbrow journal called *Critique*, a photograph of a hunky student and all manner of double-dealing and sexual ambiguity.

Confused? You will be. As one of the characters com-



Campus death: Janet McTeer hot on the murderer's trail

ments: "It beats *Neighbours*, I suppose." Leaving aside the over-intrusive music, it is much better than that.

Alma Cullen's screenplay of Joan Smith's novel is directed by Antonia Bird, whose steady career suddenly took flight last year with *The Men's Room*, the hilarious, feminist sex- saga which, according to Bird, split the critics right down the middle. The women were for it; the men were again that.

Bird was also the first woman to direct an episode of *Inspector Morse*, of which Cullen wrote four episodes. One was "Fat Chance", which tackled the prickly problem of women priests. Is *A Masculine Ending* — which features a female detective chief inspector — a feminist film?

"It is feminist in the sense that it involves a woman looking after her own life without depending on a man," says Cullen. "Loretta does not want to go to the police, but she needs to know what happened.

"She sorts out a particular problem using her inner resources and also has a sisterly regard for other women." This is perfectly true, but Dr Lawson's investigations are helped in no small way by the fact that her estranged husband is a newspaper reporter.

The film is inevitably less feminist than the book," says Bird, "but none the worse for that.

"I think it's impossible to be an intelligent woman in the 1990s and not be a feminist."

I've never thought of myself specifically as a feminist director — it's simply a question of the projects I'm offered. I'm attracted to things that are

relevant and that I feel I can add to. I try to project women in a positive manner."

As played by Janet McTeer and Imelda Staunton, Lawson and Bennett are an engaging partnership. Lawson is slim, excitable and exudes a coltish charm; Bennett is rounded, auntie-ish and funny.

Cullen says: "Loretta is a forthright and cerebral character. She is also a sexy woman with an attractive vein of self-mockery."

One of the most amusing scenes occurs towards the close of the film when Loretta misses out on some vital information because she has her hands full with something else — a student called Jamie — having gained access to his rooms by sweet-talking Arthur, the young porter. It is refreshing to see the female libido being acknowledged — that it is intrinsically comic testifies to its novelty. "A woman's sexuality is just as strong as a man's" Bird says. "It's silly to imagine otherwise."

Bird tries to recreate the atmosphere of a repertory company within the cast and crew of a film. The cast of *A Masculine Ending*, which was made for the BBC by First Choice Productions, features Bill Nighy, who appeared in *The Men's Room*; Suzanna Hamilton, who appeared in "Absolute Conviction"; and Buki Armstrong, who was in *South of the Border*.

Smith's novel is set in Oxford, but the action of the screenplay has been shifted to Cambridge. "We thought it would be more interesting for the viewer, more visually refreshing," says Bird. A sequel is in the works.

MARK SANDERSON

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ARTS

25

As women portray Christ in a BBC series, Richard Johnson looks at how film-makers have shown Jesus

The way, the truth and the lies

Jesus Christ the movie star is a man of many faces. Over the years directors have permmed his hair, shaved his armpits, given him blue contact lenses, a ringlet beard and a New York accent, and made him into a rock 'n' roll singer. Casting Christ has never been easy, of course, because people have strong ideas about how he should look. But now *The Gospels*, seven adaptations of the 1611 Authorised Version of the Bible starting tomorrow on BBC 1, threaten to revive all the old arguments about making the word flesh.

In the tradition of company storytelling, *The Gospels* divide the roles among the cast. So four actors and two actresses take turns to speak the words of Christ. "It points up a whole range of characteristics in Jesus's character," says executive producer Jack Emery. "The women lend a gentleness and a universality to the character of Christ, but no one actor represents him. With six personalities in the company, the audience is constantly getting a fresh interpretation. It's a new way of saying old words."

This new Jesus illustrates the difficult position of television and film makers. As assorted directors recount in *Jesus Christ Moviestar*, a Channel 4 documentary on Easter Monday, they have merely inherited the church's own living dilemma: how do you portray someone whom many believe is both man and God? The problem was around long before the birth of moving pictures, but they did not help. As Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity at Harvard, says: "The church felt, 'Who are these guys with cameras and lights to be depicting this figure — the one

we have the monopoly distribution licence for?'

When the British Board of Film Censors was formed in 1913, it imposed two prohibitions on film-makers: no nudity and no depiction of Christ. For a while the son of God tended to take the form of a deep voice off-camera. And when directors were brave enough to introduce an on-screen Christ, he was a white-washed character with no human failings. In D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*, Christ was only allowed to turn water into wine after the film-maker had added a footnote assuring viewers that drinking wine was perfectly acceptable in ancient Palestine.

Audiences soon tired of the bland reverence of films that were little more than religious calendar art. Cecil B. De Mille reacted to this mood change with his belly-dancing Mary Magdalene and zebra-drawn chariot in *King of Kings*. It remained the most glamorous Holy Land until the arrival of star casting. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* studded the deserts with Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Sidney Poitier, Shelley Winters, Telly Savalas and Angela Lansbury, but the film was a dramatic flop. Audiences found it hard to believe in John Wayne as a Roman officer supervising Christ's crucifixion.

The Church did not like glibly Scripturamas, or the camp glamour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*. But they also objected when Pasolini tried to revert to the Passion Play element of the Bible story with his *Gospel According To Saint Matthew*. By casting economics student Enrique Irazoqui as Christ, and a truck driver from Rome as Judas, Pasolini was trying to create a human climate for



Denys Arcand's *Jesus of Montreal*, with Joanne-Marie Tremblay (left), Lothaire Bluteau and Catherine Wilkening

his back to the people. As it was, the Spanish church and Franco's authorities accused Pasolini of peddling communist propaganda and his passport was confiscated.

The church does not seem to want a Christ actor. Before the first viewing of *Jesus of Nazareth*, Franco Zeffirelli told an interviewer that "Jesus will be portrayed as an ordinary man". He received thousands of letters of complaints from Christians. General Motors backed out as sponsors.

Ye that was nothing compared to the uproar after Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ* portrayed Jesus as unable to resist, at least in fantasy, the ultimate temptation — married life. Willem Dafoe, Scorsese's Christ, knew he might be seen as an outrage. "It's a loaded character. People have lots of ideas that they're going to bring to anything that bears any resemblance to the life of Jesus."

In attempting to reach a greater understanding of the

conflicts recognised in the Bible between the divine and human natures of Christ, Scorsese managed to offend every Christian lobby group. From the Houses of Parliament Christian Fellowship to Mother Teresa, Scorsese was pursued across the world.

Denys Arcand, the writer and director of *Jesus of Montreal*, addressed the problem of casting Christ by stepping back and making a film about an actor who was playing Jesus. He said: "I know enough to know that it is

impossible to write a Jesus story because we know so little about him."

Now *The Gospels* are trying another approach to the same problem: the representation of Christ. But some have already made up their minds. The Archdeacon of York, George Austin, condemned *The Gospels* as "insensitive and unnecessary" before he had seen it.

• *The Gospels* begin on BBC 1 at 11.10pm tomorrow. *Jesus of Nazareth* is broadcast as part of the *Canada Film Season* on Channel 4 at 10pm on April 21.



Women of the Sikulu company: a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus

World apart from reality

THEATRE**Sikulu**
Queen's

THIS South African musical is son of *Ipi Tombi*, which took London by storm in the mid-Seventies. I never saw *Ipi Tombi*, but can only imagine that composer Bertha Egnos, perpetrator of some unbelievably crass and unmemorable songs (which make Lloyd Webber appear like Beethoven), abetted by the jejune lyrics of Gail Lakier, must have been on better form 17 years ago.

Recent clear signs of the crumbling of apartheid seem to have led, as the Starbites showed at last summer's Lift Festival, to a desire for celebratory, unpolitical theatre in South Africa. But this show, while making vague noises about apartheid, not only shows no sign of political excitement, but exists in a timeless, all-black South Africa of jolly villagers and hedonistic town-dwellers. If the South African Tourist Board had decided to put together a

cross his path, a tall skipping vicar (Linson Miswe) and a mobile-phone-toting yuppie, are never developed to the point where they might become individual. As for the women, they remain indistinguishably massed in a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus as a Soweto aerobics class, Xhosa or Zulu maidens.

But surely this show is all about rhythm and energy? In fact, most of the music follows the blandest of contemporary Western idioms, and although some of the drumming and dancing (especially a bizarre gumboot dance performed by the men) is exciting in a dismembered way, real energy is connected with emotion and not just spectacle. This is prettified, inauthentic black South Africa for white Westerners and, to me, vaguely offensive as well as boring.

Ubhejane is endowed with a certain puzzlement dignity by an unnamed actor who might be Joe Motsamai, but his arrival in the big city is a clichéd dramatic opportunity which hardly acquires the strength of a cliché. The characters who

HARRY EYRES

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For Painters

with Eliza Andrews

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ROCK RECORDS

Solo shots and initial efforts

In 1985, Annie Lennox declared (in tandem with Aretha Franklin): "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves". The song was a forthright espousal of female solidarity which chimed perfectly with the independent mood of those times, even if it was written and performed with the help of her Eurythmics partner Dave Stewart.

Now, at last, Lennox really is doing things for herself. Of the 11 songs on her first solo album, *Diva* (RCA PD 75326), released this week, she wrote eight herself.

Two others were collaborations (with The Blue Nile and Peter-John Vettese) while the final cut is a reprisal of the post-war League of Health and Beauty theme song, "Keep Young and Beautiful", a lyric loaded with the innocent barbs of an era when the very concept of "sexism" was yet to be evolved: "It's your duty to be beautiful! If you want to be loved!"

However, Lennox has not taken advantage of her newfound freedom to extend herself musically; quite the reverse. With its airless synth-pop arrangements and studio-bound feel, *Diva* sounds disappointingly like an early Eurythmics album, but without the crisp, melodic spring in its step.

There are one or two nice tunes, notably the hit single "Why", and Lennox sings with her usual imperious authority. But too much of the album is anodyne and predictable and there is a wearying abundance of clichés about precious little angels, little birds flying away, and pavements paved with gold.

Historically, Lennox's most conspicuous contribution to rock's sisterhood has been in setting the new gender agenda. Capitalising on her regal bearing and severe features to produce that famously androgynous image — a sort of David Bowie in reverse — Lennox undoubtedly paved the way for a succeeding generation of handsome

women, among them Tanita Tikaram, Michelle Shocked and k.d. lang.

The latest recruit to this tomboy tendency is P.J. Harvey, a 21-year-old singer and electric guitarist whose name is synonymous with that of her three-piece group. Their debut album *Dry* (Too Pure CDD010) is an extraordinary conflation of jagged guitar motifs, clammy drumming and a wail-like voice that cuts through to the soul like an icy wind.

The product of an insular childhood in the Dorset village of Corscombe, Polly J. Harvey harnesses her unsettling visions to lyrics that are scathing and outspoken. Musically, her band's references stretch from blues to the voguish end of hardcore, all pinned to a faint but persistent undercurrent of folk. The production on *Dry* is raw and understated — dry, in fact — and for all the pent-up aggression there is a fragility at the core of her music which is utterly beguiling.

In a completely different vein, yet closer to the stark emotional landscape of P.J. Harvey's work than one might expect, are the moody, soul-baring love songs of k.d. lang. She has now reached her fourth album, *Ingénue* (Sire/Warner Bros 7599-26840-2). Abandoning the new country trappings of her last effort, 1989's *Absolute Torch and Twang*, the Canadian singer has now acquired a passion for sleepy, what might be termed *nouveau jazz*-noir torch songs, many of which require her to strip down to the emotional raw.

Her creamy voice contributes to the smooth, rich texture of the album overall, and some of the ballad arrangements would not sound out of place on a Sinatra album. But her paean to love and sex are voiced with a disarming intensity that belies both the stern look and the surface calm. The sign should read: "Beware, new women at work".

DAVID SINCLAIR



Annie Lennox: she seems not to have taken advantage of her new-found freedom to extend herself musically

Such a beastly business

THEATRE**The Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals Diorama**

details into his play but shows little skill in lending the events an air of reality. The cases are certainly bizarre, with a dog in attendance in the well of the court to represent his fellow animals, but the motives of the humans stay visibly sketchy. Since counsel for the prosecution (neatly played by Charles Grant) and his opposite number share chambers, the whole business looks like a legal racket but we learn nothing of their beliefs or animal volition.

Peter Benedict's production imaginatively uses the space

within the glass-domed Octagon of the Diorama, placing peasants at the upper windows which serve as the gallery of the courtroom or houses overlooking the market. Acoustically, however, the place is no good at all, alive with distorted echoes.

With the shortcomings of the dialogue, the production only really works when the characters are dumb: Rory Finley-Dare tossing his mane of hair as Euclid the Amazing Calculating Horse (hanged for witchcraft) and Ricci Harmer's affectionate hound. But the scene where this creature is tortured to extort a confession of sodomy is one of unrelied nastiness, tempting thoughts of the criminal prosecution and capital punishment of authors.

Peter Benedict's production imaginatively uses the space

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE**Deadly Serious**
The Place

Film buffs spot innumerable multiple allusions. Everyone must get the stabbing from *Psycho*. *Rebecca* is a

sudden menace. Bourne knows that the more he piles on the horrors, the more his audience will laugh.

The performers (he does not bill them dancers) act with neat timing and a — usually — justified confidence. The patchwork soundtrack is often funny, with an effective onstage vocal intervention by Etta Murffit.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Flushed with flash

There have always been restaurants, bars, cafés, pubs which have become indissolubly linked with their patrons, which have owed their fortunes to those patrons' fame or infamy, which have given their names to gangs, sets or groups, which have tempted with the promise of exclusivity while admitting all-comers. The names are familiar in some instances: The Algonquin, the Café Royal, Lipp, La Coupole, The Chelsea Hotel, The Colony, The Casserole, The Coach and Horses (Surely this Soho public house derives 80 per cent of its income from coach parties seeking Jeffrey Bernard, who is retained by the management on a handsome stipend and replaced in his absences by an inflatable lookalike programmed to grunt *** off you *** whenever a postgraduate student from Ann Arbor moves within three feet of it).

To this august list we must add a new name: the Phoenix Apollo of Stratford East. But I warn you: if you're looking for the sort of person who frequented these other joints you'd better look elsewhere. The Phoenix Apollo is for real men and real women — none of your freelance intellectuals



Jonathan Meades travels to Stratford East to a phoenix that has belly-flopped into the cold ashes of awfulness

and light on their feet artists. The lads here are 150 per cent pure testosterone. We know what Mr Benn likes — Brontosaurus Steak. I'll return to the food just as it has returned to me, but let us attend first to the decorative appointments.

Pin-up models and sportsmen are self evidently dependent on their bodies. But this should not of course be taken to imply that they have no brains. Far from it. We have often heard that "... has a fine footballing brain". And I am certain that commentators on "glamour" photography sessions often exclaim, with Motsonian hysteria: "No mistake, the girl's got a fine modelling brain."

But I do wonder about the discernment and eyesight of these corporeal paragons. I must confess that I had hoped for something rather more exuberant than a standard Tudor-bethan home counties steak house. Sure, there are posies of silk flowers every-

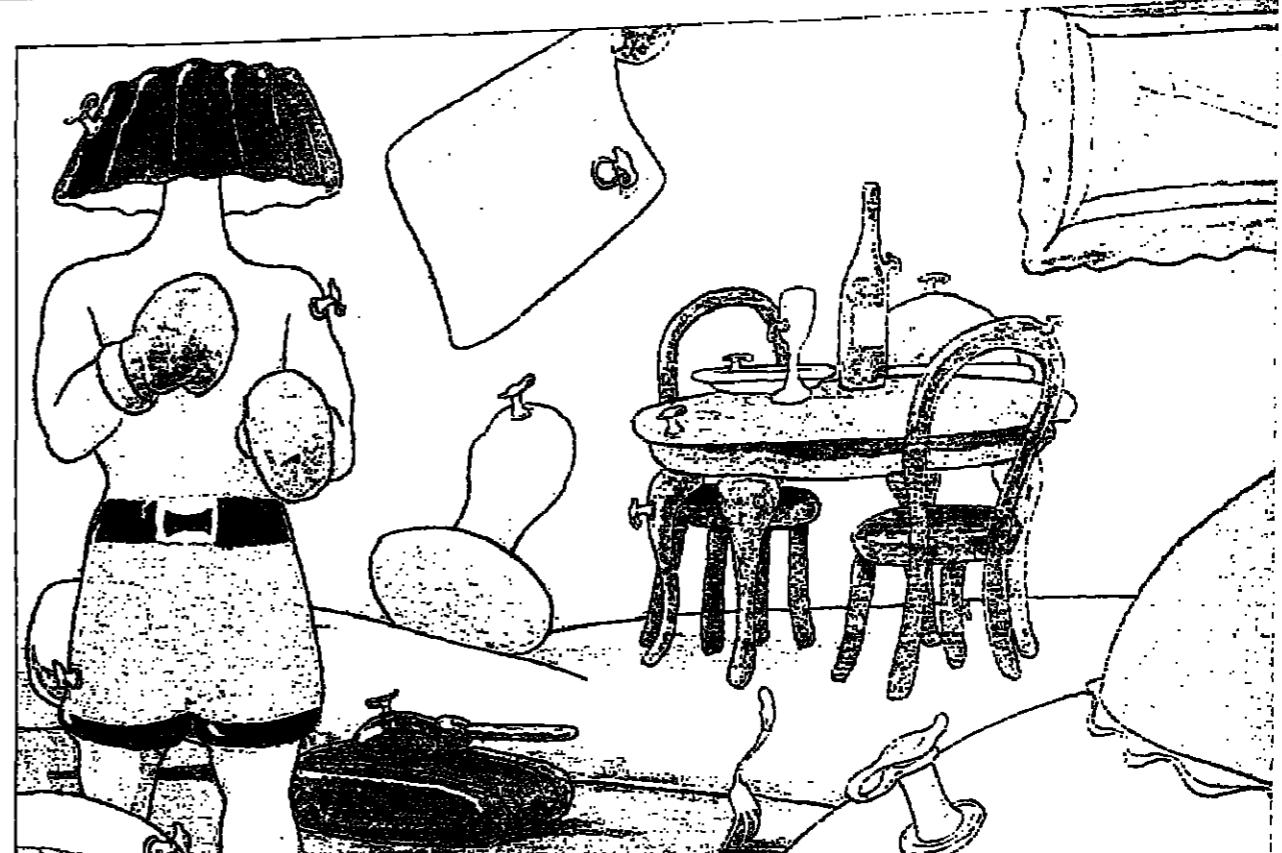
where and a couple of chunks of elaborately carved wood. But the overall impression is of a hit and miss essay in Chingford good taste: twice lights, Flatford Mills plates on the walls, chocolate box repros. It's really rather dull.

It lacks the conviction of kitsch. The menu is more promising. A combination of "international", steak-house and Greek. Plus 30 or more flavoured coffees with names such as "Tinammon [sic] Square" — Our tribute to the students that gave everything", and "Suzanne Mizzi", "Jonathan King", "KPM and UK Taxis".

Laddish boasters can show off by ordering a 1918 Morton Rothschild at £1,727. But I doubt if many do the form, if the next table was one to go by,

to drink vodka through your dinner. But then this table was not occupied by a sportsman and a starlet; indeed it's entirely likely that the fairly normal looking couple (two eyes apiece, all the usual appurtenances) don't even know Mr Gazebo.

Having tasted the Barolo I'd ordered and having felt it stripping my teeth and pitting my gums with gingivistic zeal I thought that vodka probably was the appropriate bevvy, for it has no flavour. But I came round to the wine. I saw the point of it. It proved to be a most appropriate complement to the food. Perhaps that's not quite the way to put it: the wine's achievement was to take away the taste of the food. This was a bottle of ace mouthwash, and I was quite



grateful for it. It was needed. Obviously we are often privileged to be admitted to the innermost thoughts of Body People on such subjects as Life, Ideas, War: "I'd like to open a boutique for World Peace." But this being Britain gastronomic opinions are rarely proffered. But I'd never have

guessed that the cream of Theydon Bois and le tout Chingford were quite as indiscriminate as the Phoenix Apollo suggests they are. Many have been up west, to Stringfellows. I haven't but I can't believe that its grub is at this level. The cooking at the Phoenix Apollo is the worst I've reported on in six years of this column.

Both I and the friend who accompanied me had to spit out several items. The fried potatoes and fried mushrooms were disgusting. Of course the cooking agent wasn't axle grease, simply an oil that imparts a horrible flavour when it's fresh and an even more horrible one when it has been used a few times.

Steak is poor, veal absolutely ghastly, satay desiccated and served with a sauce that bears no relation to the genuine

Phoenix Apollo
① 152 The Grove, Stratford.
London E15 (081-534 6470)
Lunch and dinner every day. £20.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only discourteous but illegal to dishonour bookings; that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

INDIAN

Saffron's
① 62 Kinnerton St, London SW1 (071-235 4444)
Offshoot of a successful restaurant in Lahore, this is a notable address for carnivores. Though such things as dhal are first-rate the point of the short menu is meat. Lamb chops, lamb's brains, chicken in batter, there's even wafer-thin meat in the man bread. The last is delicious, the prices are high but worth it. If the service is slow it is because dishes are — unusually in a sub-contiguous establishment — cooked to order. £30 (set lunch £20, set dinner £30). Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Malabar
② 27 Uxbridge St, London W8 (071-727 8800)
Unusual Indian place which has almost austere decor and a brief menu of rarely seen items. The cooking is fiery and zingy and an otherwise marred version is perhaps better to contemplate than to eat. The most successful dishes are the most commonplace: lamb with spinach etc. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Chutney Mary
③ 525 King's Road, London SW10 (071-351 3113)
This swish outfit bills itself as the world's "first Anglo-Indian" restaurant. How accurately it represents the improvised and culturally confused kitchens of the past is open to discussion. Most of the dishes are interesting, and some are quite good. Mussels sausages and mash, crab cakes, mutton stew from Kerala, dhal, bread and butter pudding. The service is in definite need of overhaul. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Rani
④ 7 Long Lane, London N3 (081-349 4380/2636)
Perhaps the trendiest Indian vegetarian restaurant in London. It is not

so much the many unfamiliar dishes that impress as the extreme delicacy of the springing and the differentiation of flavours. The deep fried bhajis are unusually fine, the chutneys are quite unlike those habitually encountered. £30 plus. Lunch Wed-Fri and Sun. dinner every day.

Copper Chimney
⑤ 13 Hoxton Street, London W1 (071-434 239 2004)
The service is frightful — loutish, offhand, unbelievably sluggish. The cooking is good: sea food bouillon; a splendid dhal of black beans; a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-ripping properties in common with the usual dish of that name; okra with chickpeas; tandoori fish. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or lassi, £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Gopal's
⑥ 12 Bateman Street, London W1 (071-434 1631/0840)
Smart Indian restaurant with very smart cooking by a chef who has been associated with many of the better "new wave" subcontinental establishments of the last few years. Good "patties" of herbed potato, good tandoori cooked meat, bargain prawn (£7.95). Nice filling puddings. £30. Lunch and dinner every day.

Adil
⑦ 148-150 Stoney Lane, Sparkbrook, Birmingham 11 (021-493 0335)
A basic and excellent cafe specialising in a culinary idiom peculiar to Birmingham called balti. It may or may not have originated in Kashmir. Dishes are served in wok-like vessels called karahi. The range of vegetables is extensive and includes mustard leaf which is akin to sorrel. There are also finely spiced meat, poultry and pulse compositions. The rums and nans are as good as you'll find in Britain. No cutlery. Drink lassi, finish with Kulfi. £12 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Pasta
Billboard Cafe
⑧ 222 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (071-328 1374)
Looks like some sort of video director's idea of an American-diner, serves cocktails, plays non-stop pop music, employs gauche waitresses. Nevertheless the basically Italian cooking is quite sound: proper pasta dishes, well made salads, well prepared lamb. £30 plus. Dinner every day, brunch Sat-Sun.

Wilton's
⑨ Market Place, Wilton, Salisbury (0722 744050)
Not exactly a wine bar, but not exactly a restaurant either — a weird and not unsuccessful marriage of the two. It's a useful outfit in an area which is, astonishingly, poorly served. The cooking is conventional. If occasionally marred by over-ambitious sauces, quite good steak, game pudding, pasta. £20 plus. Lunch and dinner every day (Sunday dinner reservations only).

Old Manor House
⑩ 21 Palmerston Street, Romsey, Hants (0794 517353)
Beamed dining rooms, uneasily formal yet friendly service, terrific wine list, variable cooking. The simpler, mainly Italian, dishes are a match for anywhere. The risotto with prawns, coquilles with lentils etc. The more complicated and more expensive ones are all right, but nothing like St. Simeon to the cheaper meals at lunchtime when two can eat well for £45. Dinner is £60 or more. Lunch Tues-Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

La Fontana
⑪ 101 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6630)
By no means standard issue Italian corridor of a restaurant which makes worthwhile attempts to break the mould. It makes a big

thing of autumnal fungus and is gifted at shaving white truffle on to risotto. Bottito misto is unspecial, polenta is dreary, pasta with rarely encountered sauces is better. £70 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

L'Incontro
⑫ 87 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6371/3663)
Superior pasta at superlative prices. The place has been mugged by Design in a serious way, the chairs have loose covers to make them like bright-headed animals. Apart from the pasta the cooking is run of the mill. The wines are hideously overpriced. £85 plus. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

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Treat them

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FLORA

Enjoy a Roman spring feast



Frances Bissell recreates some of the robust flavours of the Italian capital — and provides a food guide for travellers

The citizens of Rome are well placed to enjoy the Mediterranean diet, unlike the *contadini* of Slough who do not make their own wine, whose Chiltern Chalk circle is not clothed in olive groves, and who do not have a fishing village at the end of the airport runway.

I spent most of a recent visit to Rome combing the food shops and markets, interspersed with visits to trattorie and pauses for an ice-cream and a short, sharp burst of caffeine at the excellent *gelaterie*.

Piazza Vittorio, my favourite Roman market, the one where the city-dwellers shop and drive a hard bargain, was piled high with *primizie*, the first crops of many greens including spruce-like wild asparagus, heaps of zucchini flowers which, as a Roman speciality, are stuffed with mozzarella and deep-fried, bowls of water containing the pale, green curly *puntarelle*, chicory shoots which are peeled and then shaved into strands. Served raw with a dressing of olive oil, garlic, wine vinegar or lemon juice and anchovies, they make a marvellously fresh starter.

Ariochokes were there in profusion, costing from £600-1,000 lire (25-50p) each — I managed to sample artichoke prepared at least six different ways during my visit.

Salami of all kinds dangle temptingly. The meat stalls take my breath away, *abbacchio* (milk-fed lamb), *cappone*, *castrofo* (castrated kid), spinal cord, spleen, brains, liver, tripe, testicles and the Roman speciality *pajata*, which is cooked into a sauce and served with the thick-floured rigatoni.

Roman food is robust food, with strong, clean flavours, simple cooking methods, and made from the highest quality ingredients.

It was a Friday when I shopped in the Piazza Vittorio, and the largest queues were at the meat stalls, especially the halal butcher, it being the beginning of Ramadan, which coincided with Lent; hence the other jostling queues at the fish stalls opposite.

Writing about it makes me want to go back. A Roman feast for Easter is the solution.

Anchovy Sauce
(makes about 14pt/140ml)
2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
a few grains of coarse salt
2tbsp lemon juice or wine vinegar
freshly ground black pepper
1 small can of anchovy fillets in oil, drained
14pt/140ml extra virgin olive oil

Crush the garlic and salt, and mix with the lemon juice and black pepper. Pound or chop the anchovies, and mix in the seasoning and the oil. Not only is this the right dressing for *puntarelle*, it is very good with other crisp or bitter salad leaves and does wonders for an iceberg lettuce. I usually make more than I need for a salad dressing and store the leftover in the refrigerator to be used for the

following recipe, which is excellent with some of the "artisan" pastas, such as handmade *orecchiette*, or other chunky pastas. English sprouting broccoli now in season is the thing to use here.

Pasta with broccoli

(serves 4)

1 small onion or shallot, peeled and chopped

1tbsp extra virgin olive oil

3/4lb/340g sprouting broccoli, rinsed and drained

2-3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed

3-4tbsp stock or white wine

14pt/70ml anchovy sauce (see previous recipe)

1lb/455g dried pasta

To serve
freshly grated Parmesan

Have a pan of water on to cook the pasta. Gently cook the onion in olive oil until soft. Strip the broccoli sprouts and leaves from the central stem. Discard or peel any tough portions, and slice the main stem. The smaller leaves can be left whole and the larger ones bunched together and cut across into 3-4 pieces. Stir the broccoli on a relatively high heat for a few minutes, stir-frying, adding the garlic as well. Add the stock and cover, letting the broccoli cook in the steam for a few minutes more. Meanwhile, the pasta should be put in to cook for the appropriate time. Stir the anchovy sauce into the broccoli. When cooked, drain the pasta, and fold pasta and sauce together before turning into a heated serving bowl.

Note: If you have dried tomatoes, they combine well with the strong flavour of broccoli and anchovies. Tomatoes in oil can be cut into strips and added with the broccoli. Dry tomatoes can be soaked in a little hot water while you fry the onions, and then cut them up and add to the broccoli.

Carciofi alla Romana

(Roman-style artichokes)

(serves 4)

1 lemon

4 artichokes

a few stems of mint and parsley

salt, pepper

14pt/70ml extra virgin olive oil

4tbsp white wine

Remove the zest from the lemon, and cut in half. If the artichokes have long stalks, break these off near the base, rub the broken surface with the cut lemon to keep them from browning. Peel the stalks down to the tender centre, and drop in a bowl of water to which you have added some lemon juice. Break off the coarse outer leaves, and then the coarse tips of the remaining leaves until you have removed all the tough fibrous parts. Each cut surface should be rubbed with the lemon to prevent it darkening. The choke is dealt with later. There is no need to cut off the leaf tips unless you have artichokes with sharp spiny points to the leaves. We normally get the blunt Breton or Cyprus artichokes in



Britain. Strip the mint and parsley leaves from the stems, and put the stems, together with some of the lemon zest, in a large pan of water.

Season lightly, bring to the boil, and cook the artichokes for 15-20 minutes. Drain, and when cool enough to handle, open out the centre, and remove the hairy choke without removing the tender base, which is the best part of the artichoke. Put the artichokes back in the empty pan, with olive oil and white wine, chopped herbs and zest, keeping a little of the green and yellow back to sprinkle on the artichokes before serving. Cover and cook over a low heat until the artichokes are tender.

Serve in shallow soup plates, scattered with the remaining herbs and zest. Eat with a knife and fork or your fingers. This is the simplest preparation of *carciofi alla Romana*. For a more elaborate version, when the artichokes are part cooked and the choke has been removed, the centre is filled with the same herbs and lemon, mixed with soft breadcrumbs and moistened with wine and olive oil. The artichokes are put back in the saucepan to continue cooking, standing upright so that the stuff-

ing does not fall out. The peeled stalks can be cooked with artichokes and then used in a soup or as a salad ingredient.

I love the Roman use of mint in cooking, as prevalent today as it was during the time of the Roman empire — it has quite converted me to mint with lamb. The following recipe is one I originally devised to go with a roast leg of goat, based on the Apicus recipes. If you can get mature goat, I highly recommend it; otherwise, a leg of lamb will do nicely. I recommend British lamb, which has plenty of flavour and, above all, texture.

Although it has been highly praised elsewhere, I have found Marks & Spencer's chilled New Zealand lamb exceedingly disappointing: little flavour, and so soft that you could eat it without teeth, were my findings after three test dishes. When I raised it with their food technologist, however, he said that for most people, the elements I criticised would be a plus point. Tenderness is the most important consumer requirement of meat, it seems, not flavour and texture. Are we becoming a nation of toothless consumers? I hope not. Consumers need teeth.

Preheat your oven to 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Brush the meat with most of the olive oil. Strip the leaves from the mint, reserve them, and place the stalks on a rack in a roasting tin. Roast the lamb for about one and a half hours.

Put the mint, spices and herbs in a mortar, and pound them. Put the wine, jam and cider vinegar in a saucepan. Scrape in the pounded herbs, and add the remaining olive oil. Bring to the boil, and simmer on a very low heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain into a heated sauceboat, add the skinned roasting juices, and serve with the roast.

Roast lamb with mint sauce

(serves 4-6)

1 leg or loin of lamb weighing 3-4lb/1.35-1.8kg

3-4tbsp extra virgin olive oil

2-3 sprigs fresh mint

1tsp freshly ground black pepper

1tsp celery seed

pinch of dried oregano

1tsp fennel seeds

21/2fl oz/70ml good red wine

1tbsp plum or damson jam

21/2fl oz/70ml cider vinegar

salt, pepper

Preheat your oven to 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Brush the meat with most of the olive oil. Strip the leaves from the mint, reserve them, and place the stalks on a rack in a roasting tin. Roast the lamb for about one and a half hours.

Put the mint, spices and herbs in a mortar, and pound them. Put the wine, jam and cider vinegar in a saucepan. Scrape in the pounded herbs, and add the remaining olive oil. Bring to the boil, and simmer on a very low heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain into a heated sauceboat, add the skinned roasting juices, and serve with the roast.

Mint and mushroom stuffing for lamb

4oz/110g brown cap mushrooms

2 cloves garlic

1tsp oil

2oz/55g bread crumbs

1tsp chopped fresh mint

1tsp grated fresh ginger

juice of half a lemon

Chop mushrooms and garlic finely. Fry in oil over high heat for one minute, stirring constantly. Add all other ingredients. If using dried mint and ginger, halve quantities given for fresh.

Chock full of Easter appeal

Jane MacQuitty on the wines that will tickle the most rabid chocaholic's fancy

Post-election blues or euphoria, plus the prospect of the long Easter holiday weekend ahead call for a glass of champagne. Fortunately, the decent £10 bottle of bubbly is still with us. Drinking champagne has always been an indulgence, doubly so in a recession. But I still think that the slashed price, £10 bottle of bubbly, provided you are selective, is worth it. Good champagne with the right relationship between quality and price is hard to beat.

My favourite bargain-base-mint bubbly — although like all, it has its ups and downs — has been the Hôpital family's J. de Telmont Grande Réserve, not the skinny Blanc de Blancs which is nowhere near as good. Based on an almost 50-50 mix between the region's two fuller-flavoured black grapes, pinot noir and meunier, topped up with a little slimline chardonnay, Grande Réserve's rich, biscuity scent and fruity palate pleases all. The good news for Easter is that Majestic Wine Warehouses has reduced its price to a rock-bottom £9.89 from £11.99. Anyone with a summer wedding or christening coming up should stock up now with this classy, cut-price champagne, discounted until April 20. And don't forget last week's recommended cut-price champagne bargains of Tesco's Paul Lettier Reserve (£8.79) and Sainsbury's non-vintage Brut £10.45 per bottle if you buy two. Both wines are still available.

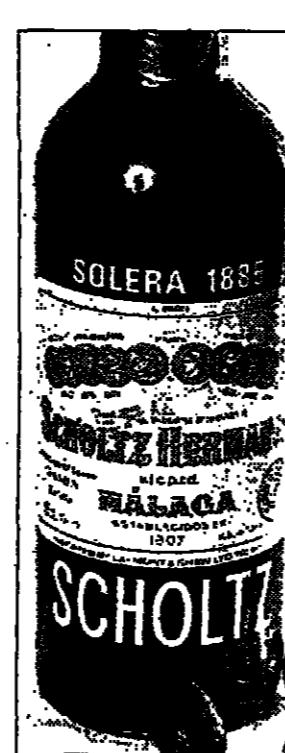
Helpfully, Majestic have several other champagne deals on offer this month. High-profile grandes marques

champagnes do not come cheap. But Veuve Clicquot has recently taken a step-up in quality. Its deep, fruity, almost peppery style looks a good Majestic buy priced at £16.45, down from £19.95 until April 20, and even undercutts Oddbins £17.13, seven bottles for the price of six deal. Less useful are Majestic's discounts on Roederer's rich, honeyed Brut Premier (£16.96, not £19.95) and fresh, apple-like Laurent Perrier (£14.83, not £17.45).

Again, Roederer's Majestic price undercut is of Oddbins' seven for six arrangement, as it also does on Oddbins' Laurent Perrier price. However, these prices only apply to Majestic's "Selection" customers, to become one entails getting on to Majestic's mailing list and using a "Selection" card.

With households full of chocolate Easter eggs, rabbits and ducks next weekend, that troublesome question of what wine to drink with them crops up. Wine, despite what the purists say, can and does go with chocolate. As chocoholics no doubt already know, the obvious run of luscious, dessert wines fail miserably when partnered with chocolate: most taste spineless, or overly acidic alongside chocolate, even if it's the lightweight milk chocolate variety and you serve your oldest, finest and most powerful sauterne.

The best bet in the dessert wine spectrum is that delicious 1885 Solera Scholtz Hermans Malaga made from moscatel grapes grown on the dull, sunburnt hills behind Marbella and Malaga in southern Spain. (Laymon &



Shaw, The Old Chapel, Millpool, Truro £5.99, Waitrose £7.25). Unlike sherry, good malaga works with chocolate because its distinctive scent of roses and unusual, sweet, raisiny palate just about manages to linger on in the mouth, no matter how dark, rich and intensely flavoured the chocolate is. Try a glass of this moreish dessert wine with simnel cake for a special Easter experience.

Also try with chocolate, one of the biggest, bounciest, dry New World red wines from places such as California and Australia.

California seems to have priced itself out of the UK market. So, it was with a range

of good, ordinary Australian reds that I elected to conduct my 1992 wine and chocolate trial. The 1990 Glenloth Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (Odds £2.99) with its simple, Ribena-like taste fared well, taking on even a coffee-laced praline with ease.

Better still was an impressive 1988 Leo Buring Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra, whose ultra-ripe, silky cassis taste coped with every chocolate flavour I put it up against. It is now down from £6.99 to £4.99 at Oddbins.

Easter is not all red wine, chocolates and champagne. So, for those on the lookout for good, inexpensive white wines, sound but limited availability buys this Easter include Sainsbury's new £2.15 1991 Le Paradou, a southern French vin de pays made from the mazuel grape. What separates this white from the pack is its pleasing, spring-like, grassy-appley taste. Fine and pricier is Hugh Ryman's syllish 1991 Domaine de Lian, for once a good Gascony vin de pays, whose zesty, white currant-like flavour should make ideal drinking on the first warm days. (Thresher/Wine Rack £3.35).

Finally, for those who like to be quick on the block, the first 1992 vintage wine, harvested in the Cape's southern hemisphere vineyards at the end of January, has already arrived here. Smart wine drinkers will want to be seen with a bottle of 1992 Goya Kgeisje (Tesco £2.99) on their Easter table.

From

THE A-Z OF BEEKEEPING
From hive to honeypot

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22 page special

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Buy British,
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However you voted on Thursday, you can still support the country's future by buying British. I am certainly not advising stepping up consumption of meat and dairy products, but if you are buying them, remember UK provisions for farm animal welfare are better than the rest of Europe has to offer.

The best hope of improvement lies in buying homegrown products labelled as high welfare. But use your wits when interpreting the labels: there is no excuse for being fooled by such evasions as "farm fresh". Look for a description, however brief, of how the animal was reared.

Showing clear consumer preference for such products is the best way to encourage farmers to produce food to more humane standards. Just as important, it gives power to the government's elbow when it comes to welfare negotiations in Europe.

If we do not seem to care what sort of hell livestock suffer, there is little incentive for British politicians to battle uphill against the hostility of the Eurocrats.

Love blooms among the hedgerows

Friendship clubs for lonely Greens are springing up. Joanna Gibbon investigates the success of gentle touch

Anyone despairing of ever meeting their country-side-loving, environmentally concerned soulmate need worry no longer. Friendship agencies — the word "dating" is graceless — are sprouting all over in response to the demand for more caring, honest-as-the-soil people.

Many gentle Greens, it seems, have encountered difficulties meeting that special person for romance and a life-long relationship. Those who fled the city find the rural life — however idyllic and noise-free — an isolating experience: establishing friendships never mind anything more, can be awkward, particularly for the divorced with young children or those with solitary occupations.

Others dream of escaping the Smoke, complaining that they no longer have anything in common with their workmates, and finding no joy at the local branch of Friends of the Earth.

The result is the emergence of specialist agencies catering for lonely farmers, country folks, vegetarians, Christians and even astrologists. The Greens, reflecting the recent boom in interest in the environment, now have three agencies — two in England and one starting in Scotland.

Barbara and James Bradshaw, who live at Culford, a village near Bury St Edmunds, began Natural Friends in 1985. "There were few people around here with whom we could share social and environmental interests and we wondered whether others had the same problem. Also, it was our contribution to the Green movement if two people save energy together than they achieve much more than if they were on their own," Mrs Bradshaw says.

"Many subscribers want to escape London or its suburbs; women particularly dream of a cottage in the country," she says. The agency has found that Scotland has a good supply of men: two women from

house to save energy." Mrs Bradshaw says.

From small and local beginnings, the agency now attracts many people from London and other cities. Its membership is about 1,900; most are vegetarian, non-smoking, and register for about a year. The largest group is aged between 30 and 50 with as many men as women.

The agency does not attempt to match people. It asks new subscribers (who pay £38 for a year's membership) to write about themselves in a 100-word paragraph, which then goes into a bi-monthly newsletter distributed to all members. Recurring phrases in the digests include: "open-minded, honest and sensitive"; "cares about the world and wild places"; "hates disco, most sport, TV soaps and conversation about cars". The Bradshaws say many applicants work in the caring professions. "There are doctors, nurses and lawyers as well as practitioners of alternative therapies. Some have concentrated so hard on their career that their personal life has suffered," Mrs Bradshaw says.

Once their description is printed in the newsletter, it is up to members to write to others who take their fancy; for security women usually have box numbers. What appears to be a rather country method of encountering people — letters, telephone calls and finally a meeting — gives the person a dignified door through which to exit at any stage if they want, says Mrs Bradshaw, who encourages various safeguards. "We advise people to meet each other's friends and family — anyone who is reticent about this should immediately raise suspicions."

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Specialised help: Barbara and James Bradshaw set up a friendship agency to help Greens find other people with similar concerns



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Suffolk and Devon have headed north recently. Applicants from Wales are the most genuinely rural: "They seem to have a lot of problems finding each other."

Natural Friends' success rate is impossible to gauge, but when a meeting works the participants seem to waste little time. Peter and Judy's first meeting in Richmond Park took place last September; they now live together in Peter's house in Woking, Surrey, and plan to get married next month.

Peter, a 34-year-old divorcee, joined Natural Friends last February after his Open University studies put paid to his social life. "I spotted Natural Friends in an OU newsletter," Peter says.

Jane and Andy met for the first time last October after several long

telephone calls during September: Andy, aged 31, was the first person Jane contacted. Jane, aged 38, discovered Natural Friends in a Ramblers' Association magazine.

They met at Aylesbury railway station in Buckinghamshire — "we had already exchanged photographs but we walked past without recognising each other at first," Jane says — and spent the afternoon at an old church talk. "There was a great rapport."

Now Jane is planning to move from Berkshire so that she can be closer to Andy, who lives in a thatched cottage in Suffolk with his two young children.

Both are divorced, vegetarian, and neither drinks. "I could never

see myself living under the same roof or even going out socially with someone who ate meat," says Jane, who is a member of Friends of the Earth: Andy is a member of the local wildlife group. They both love walking, being involved with the local church, bell-ringing, tidying up the churchyard and folk music. Jane is tackling Andy's somewhat overgrown garden.

A point of contention might be Andy's new hobby, Morris dancing. "It is an all-male preserve and I can't join in," Jane says. "But my daughter and I will join the women's dog dancing group. Apparently a lot of couples do that in the village."

• *Natural Friends, 0284 728315.*

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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ASSERTIVE Male executive, 44, Central London needs part-time wife! Tall, slender, attractive, intelligent, cultured, intelligent, charming lifestyle. Photo/ reply Box No 7998.

ATTRACTIVE elegant blonde woman, 30, seeking a serious relationship with a cultured, intelligent, charming lifestyle. Photo/ reply Box No 8150.

ATTRACTIVE single, well educated man, 28, seeks young, attractive female, 24-28, for serious, intimate, sexual relationship. Photo/ reply Box No 8103.

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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

OUT OF TOWN

Open house surgery

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S

Alice adds to a happy black week

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

At long last the suspense is over, and we can put behind us the weeks of guesswork and nail-biting anticipation. Yes, Alice the Large Black sow has delivered us of a fine litter of nine healthy piglets. In pig breeding terms, a good working majority.

Of course, it is nothing like the landslide of a couple of litters ago when she had 13, but we are not complaining. Her latest labours were accomplished with dignity and composure with the exception of the usual percussive symphony in which she signals that her hour has come by flinging her cast-iron feeding trough high into the air and letting it fall heavily onto the concrete. The resounding clatter would have made even Quasimodo jealous.

She accomplishes it with her powerful but finely tuned snout, which is her principal instrument of government. She has such mastery of it that at one moment it has enough deadly force to raise chunks of three-inch concrete, and yet moments later an escaping piglet will feel its gentle nudge and be deflected back to the warmth and shelter of the sty. Autocratic yet caring, that's our Alice.

And so it has been yet another black week, but a happy one. Last week was overshadowed by the looming black presence of the tattered shepherd's hut. And now I

find this week, apart from the squealing litter of black piglets, a decidedly black-looking parcel arriving in the post which has caused me much excitement, and through my family into a deep gloom.

I mentioned some time ago that my unfulfilled ambition was to make porridge by rolling my own oats. It proved impossible, as I could find no way of separating the luscious groats from the indigestible husks. In fact, I now know that I was wasting my time, for a company with the boastful name of Superoats wrote to say that what I should be growing were "naked oats", so called because they have no husk. It would be a simple matter to roll them, carry them to the stove, and live happily ever after. They sent a sample to prove it, and I confess I have never tasted better porridge.

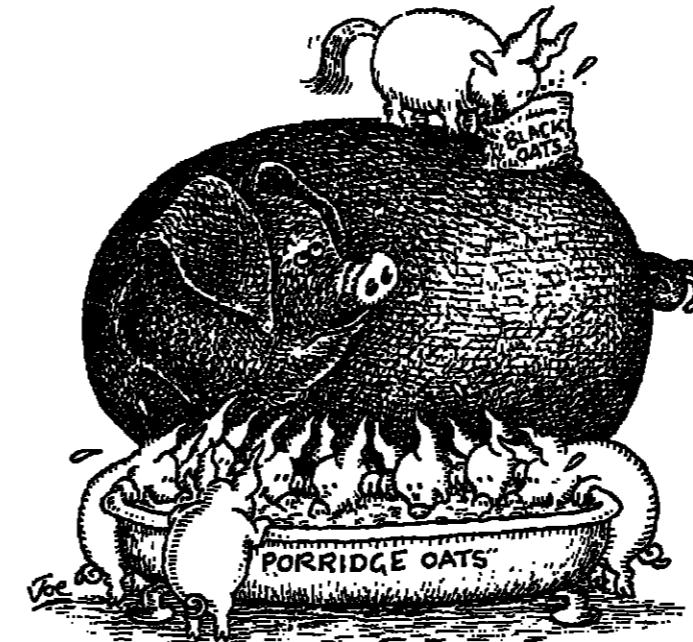
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Instead of writing a simple letter of thanks, I set them a further problem. Old horsemen have often mentioned to me that they used to grow a variety of oat called "black oats". Hell, they would insist, "them black 'uz, them were good grub for 'osses." Apparently, there was no finer feed for the working carriage than these plump, fattening, invigorating black grains. But

where to find the seed? I asked various merchants but got no response. And when I wrote to Superoats there was no immediate response. This dinosaur of a cereal, I guessed, had become extinct. But last week, a parcel the size of a sweets arrived in the post. Inside were a couple of pounds of precious black oat seed. I gazed into the bag like Howard Carter peering into the tomb of Tutankhamun, and shivered with delight. Where had they been found? Was I holding in my hand the very last few grains of black oats? Alas no. They're quite common in France," said the man from Superoats. "They grow them for horses. None grown in this country though."

So I intend to correct that sorry state of affairs. My carthorses expect no less of me. It will, of course, take years. I shall plant the few seeds that I have, harvest them and thrash them on the floor of the barn to remove the grain. I shall then sow those the following year, and so on until I have enough seed to plant a crop. It is fraught with danger. One hungry raven which happened to stumble across the budding stalks could easily wipe out the whole experiment.

But I think it will be worth it.



The only thing to contend with now will be the black looks on the faces of my family when I break it to them that, with so little black seed to start with, we shall have to sow each grain by hand. We shall scratch a shallow furrow in the earth with a stick and, in biblical fashion, drop seed after seed faithfully on to the earth. And then pray. As I am coming to the conclusion that this is the most tempestuous and least improved farm in the whole of Britain, the black oats and I should get on fine.

Feather report

The hidden message of a bird's song

It is hard to understand the world of our fellow mammals. We do not possess the truly vital sense, you see, we smell in black and white, and in very coarse images at that. Most mammals see in black and white, and have their sensory being in an unimaginably colourful world of smells. So many mammals are nocturnal creatures of the dark, but people are born for the daylight.

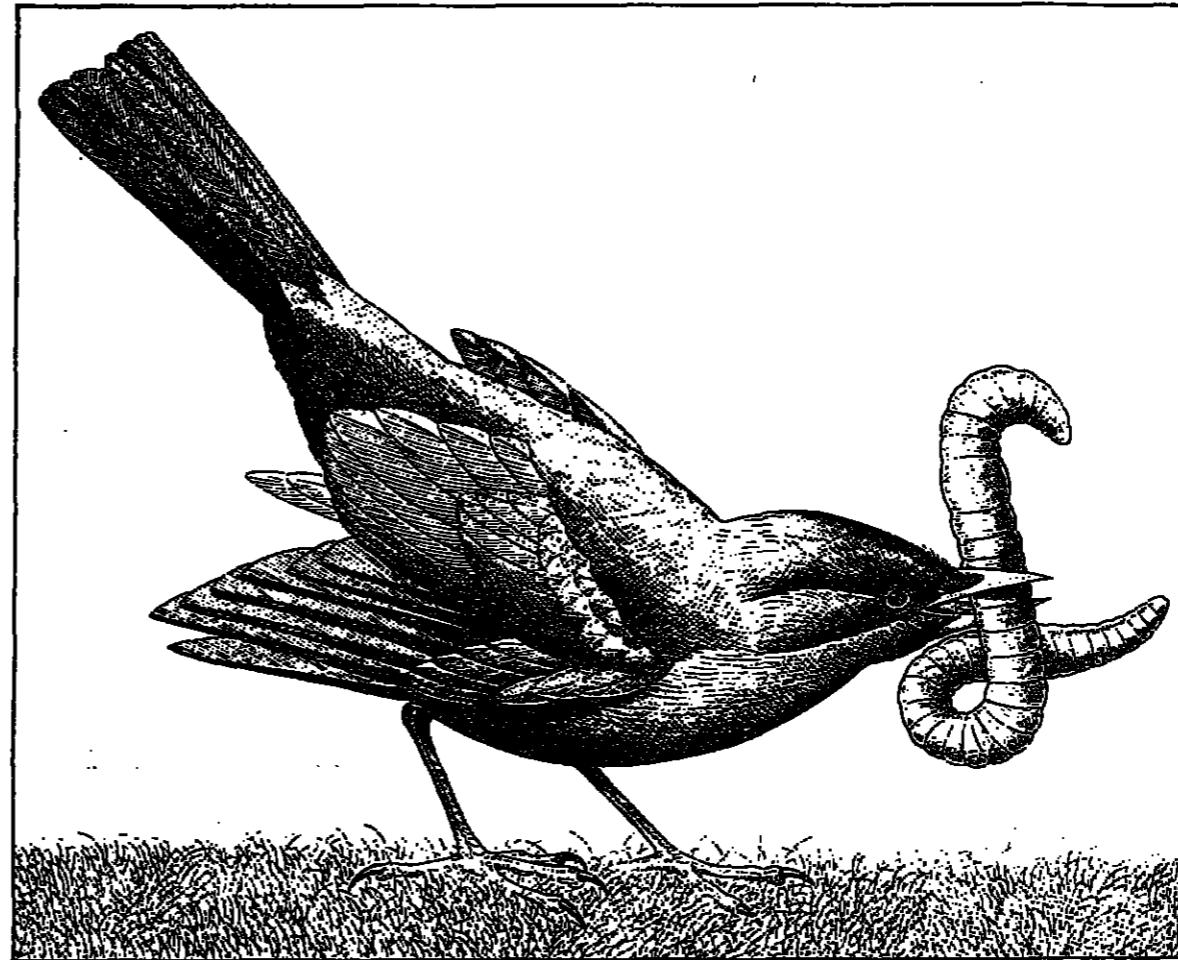
In some ways, we are closer to the bird's world. Birds like us, see in colour. Smell is not a large part of their lives. Seeing and hearing are the things... Where birds are invisible — in the forest canopy, in scrubs and brakes, in deep grassland — they communicate in a way we can understand: they call. And at this time of the year, a lot of them sing.

And we can understand many songs and calls. Take

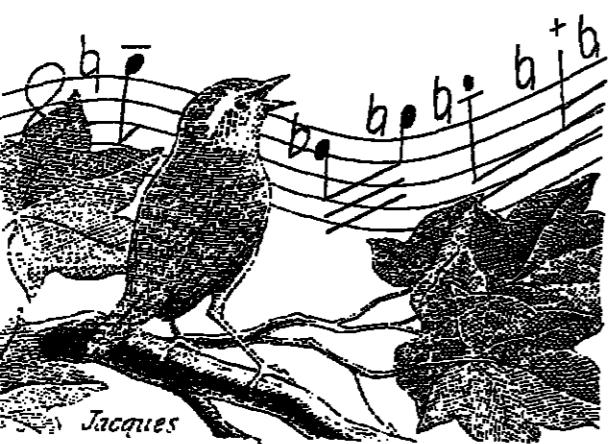
mammals, and this, it is thought, is what enables them to distinguish sounds that occur very close in time. They can separate sounds two thousandths of a second apart: about ten times better than we can manage. That is why a wren's song, a blur to us, is of crystal clarity for birds.

Birds hear and distinguish these sounds *consciously*, it would seem. The Sound Archive has recordings of a notorious mimic, the marsh warbler, a European bird that occasionally turns up in this country, and has compared its impersonations note by note with the originals, discovering that the marsh warbler does not omit a single one of the little notes and twiddly bits.

You can hear this, slowed down, and you can see it, when it is played through a sonagraph. This gives you an enigmatic sort of scribbly



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Classical rendering: the wren's song notated by the composer Messiaen, who used bird sounds in his works

cuckoo, for a start. Blackbirds, the laid-back flautists of the suburbs and woodland edges, sing a song as charming and as accessible as any in the world. Birdsong is a delight to any human with a pair of ears.

So I went along to National Sound Archive's wildlife division in South Kensington to see just how much I didn't know, and to listen to familiar sounds I had never heard.

The National Sound Archive is part of the British Library and operates as a public service. Instead of, say, the 1850 edition of the *Origin of Species*, this branch will give you 500 different recordings of chaffinch. Very useful if you are studying regional dialect in birds: yes, birds do have local accents.

Richard Ranft, the curator of wildlife sounds, decided it was time I had a bird's eye view — a bird's ear audience, rather — of a wren. A wren's song lasts about six seconds: two themes divided by a trill, a song remarkable, in our ears, mainly for its vehemence.

But it contains, Mr Ranft told me, about 100 notes. And he lent me a bird's ear for the occasion. He played me a wren song at quarter speed. And in a flash, the brief, violent, almost expectorated song was gone.

In its place was something sweeter, more whimsical, altogether more inventive: with flamboyant leaps, grandstanding repetitions and a dramatic drum solo in the middle.

Wrens not only sing it, they hear it. It is hairy ears that do it: birds have a higher density of sensory hairs than we



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Where can you ride in a desk, be a prisoner of war, pan for lead, enjoy a Celtic ritual,

100 family treats for Easter

During the Easter holidays, being a parent provides a fine reason — or an excuse — for enjoying with your children all the fun of a family day out. Take a steam train journey, press buttons in a new high-tech museum, pat farm animals out in the country, take part in historical re-enactments — there is plenty of scope for embarrassing your children by joining in with all the entertainment.

To find out what diversions are on offer around the country, Betty Jerman has tracked down a multitude of things to do and see that will absorb and entertain children of all ages, and in all weathers. For this weekend and many others throughout the year, the list should provide a rich source of cues for that dreaded moan: "I'm bored. There's nothing to do."

Where places are not open year-round, opening times have been indicated. But either way a telephone call to check details before travelling is strongly recommended. Any venue may be unexpectedly closed for a day or more.

MUSEUMS

- **Museum of the Moving Image**
South Bank, SE1 (071-401 2636)
Magic lanterns, the early and prime days of Hollywood, TV from black and white days. Make your own animations, read the news, soar over London through special effects. £5.50, child £1.30.
- **London Toy & Model Museum**
21-23 Craven Hill, W2 (071-262 7905)
7,000 commercially made toys in two Victorian houses. In the garden: play bus, boating pond, vintage carousels, trains. £2.80, child £1.30.
- **Museum of Automata**
Tower Street, York (0904 655550)
Collection of colourful 18th to 19th-century mechanically animated figures brought to life, some on video screens. Start modern pieces yourself, such as the Mad Professor's Musical Instrument. £3, child £1.70.
- **Teddy Bear Museum**
19 Greenhill, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 293 160)
Bears large, small, mechanical, musical and famous. £1.90, child 95p.
- **The Historic Dockyard Chatham**, Kent (0634 812551)
Shipbuilding since the Tudors. Check events at Visitor

Centre first, like traditional ropemaking in 1,128ft Ropewalk. "Wooden Walls", story of building and going into action of a wooden warship, with figures, voices, gunfire. £5.20, child £2.60.

Eden Camp

Malton, N. Yorkshire (0653 697777)

Former prisoner-of-war camp. Experience the second world war, rationing, fashions, Home Guard, munitions factory, coal mine (Bevin Boys) with sound, light and smells. £3, child £2.

Bath Industrial Heritage Centre

Camden Works, Julian Road, Bath (0225 318348)

Victorian ironmonger's and mineral water business. Try your hand at mixing "pop".

April-October. £2.50, child £1.50.

Sally Lunn's Refreshment House and Museum

4 North Parade Passage, Bath (0225 461634)

Watch the owners baking the famous bun. Ecclesiastical, late-Tudor kitchen. Excavations revealed Roman, Saxon levels. Under-road tunnel with stalactites. 30p, child free.

Castle Museum

Clifford Street, York (0904 653611)

Once a prison. Reconstructed Victorian streets with shops, cabs. Rooms furnished, Georgian, Victorian, even 1950s.



Ruff justice: period dressing up at the children's museum in 16th-century Haggis Castle, Glasgow, with the original kitchen brought to life and the gentry dressing for dinner

Lots of toys and costumes. £3.35, child £2.35

Tutus House

Castle Street, Carlisle (0228 34781)

Border history. Stroll through Roman Carlisle, climb Hadrian's Wall, meet a reiver (ancient cattle rustler), peep into a bird of prey hideout. £3.10, child £1.60.

Welsh Folk Museum

St Fagans, Cardiff (0222 569441)

Welsh life seen through buildings brought from original sites. Elizabethan mansion, farmhouse, cottages, coal miners' terrace, chapel, forge, gardens. Children's activity guide. £3.50, child £1.75

Amberley Chalk Pits Museum

Amberley, W. Sussex (0798 831370)

Open air. The industrial working life of our forebears, engines, a forge, village garage. Working potter, blacksmith, brick-making. Try ancient omnibus. April-October. £3.90, child £1.80.

National Museum of Photography, Film and Television

Prince's View, Bradford (0274 727488)

Everything you would want to know about taking photographs, from early stills to latest technology. Operate the

cameras in a studio set, be a TV newsreader, fly courtesy of special effects. Free entry.

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx (081-568 4757)

Giant Victorian engines in restored water pumping station, even a steam railway. £2.10, child £1.10.

Haggs Castle

100 St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow (041-427 2725)

16th-century castle now a museum for children. Original kitchen brought to life and the gentry in their bedroom preparing for dinner. Victorian nursery with dolls. Free.

Join the pilgrims walking to Becket's tomb. Hear the tales of the Courly Knight, the Wife of Bath. Life-size figures in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

A Day at the Wells

The Corn Exchange, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 546545)

Walk through settings of 18th-century society taking the waters, a coffee house, the Pantiles, an hotel, a ball. Commentary. £2.75, child £1.75.

Royalty and Empire

Central Station, Windsor (0753 857837)

Spectacular re-creation of Queen Victoria awaiting guests for Diamond Jubilee and "departing" from station with guard of honour. New-fangled anniversary exhibition about royalty today. Learn to curtsey, wear a replica crown, walk through a cheering crowd. £3.95, child £2.45.

Royal Mews

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1 (071-930 4932)

Four Windsor greys demonstrate how the familiar pageantry is created in stables where, also for the first time, all seven state carriages can be seen. April 15-July 16 Wed-Thurs, July 22-Oct 2 Wed-Fri, noon-4pm. £2, child £1.

Warwick Castle

Warwick (0926 495421)

Splendidly dressed figures in 12 rooms, making their toilettes, formally socialising in the drawing-room for "A Royal Weekend Party - 1898" when Edward VII visited. Also state rooms, dungeon, armoury in medieval castle. £5.75, child £3.50.

Beaulieu

Hampshire (0590 612123)

Buckler's Hard, 18th-century shipbuilding village, 2.5 miles from the Motor Museum. Original cottages brought to life with figures, furnishings, labourers, shipwrights, inn patrons. £2.50, child £1.50.

The Canterbury Tales

St Margaret's Street, Canterbury (0227 454888)

Ride in a moving desk, learn about university life from the Middle Ages through the Reformation and Civil War, about characters seen life-size in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

The Oxford Story

6 Broad Street, Oxford (0865 790055)

Ride in a moving desk, learn about university life from the Middle Ages through the Reformation and Civil War, about characters seen life-size in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

White Cliffs Experience

Market Square, Dover (0304 214566)

6,000 years of history, the Roman invasion (char with slaves, soldiers), a gruesome Celtic ritual, clamber the rigging on an old ferry, pick your way through the rubble of a bombed 1944 street. £4, child £2.50.

Mountfitchet Castle

Stansted, Essex (0279 813237)

Reconstructed Norman wood-and-bailey castle and Norman village with animals. £3.50, child £2.50.

Rhonda Heritage Park

Lewis Merthyr, Coed Cae Road, Treheredd, Glamorgan (0443 682036)

"Black Gold — The Story of Coal": realistic scenes from first-hand accounts, sounds, smells, life-like figures of past times in the once-pit-head buildings. £3.50, child £2.50.

Acton Scott Working Farm Museum

Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Shropshire (0542 6306)

Working farm before electricity and petrol engine. Sheep, pigs, poultry. Traditional crafts demonstrated. April-October. £2.50, child £1.20.

Wigan Pier

Wigan, Lancs (0942 323666)

1900 brought to life. Visit a collier's family, sing in the pub, repeat at the temperance meeting, see a Victorian classroom. £5.10, child £3.10.

Ulster-American Folk Park

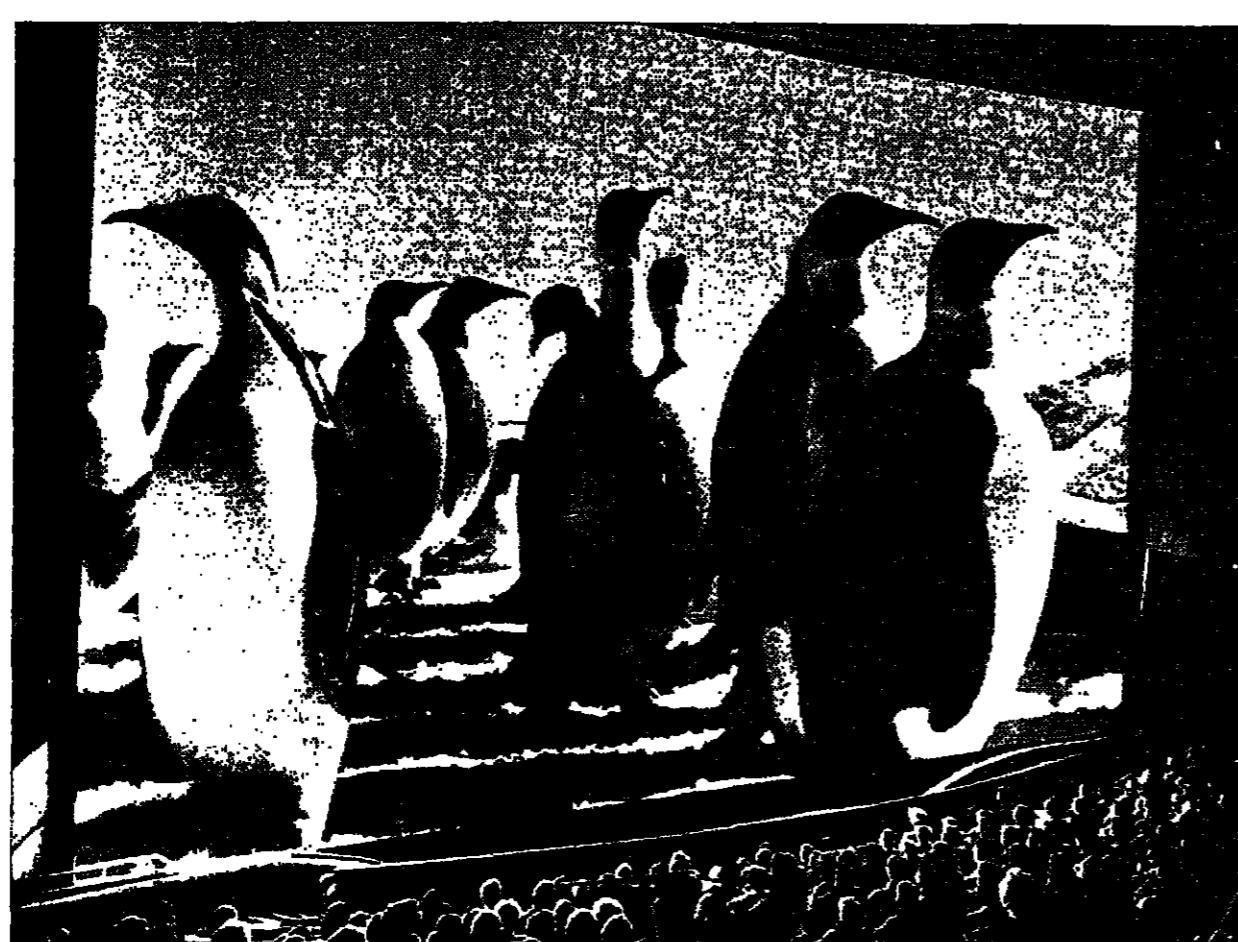
Camp Hill, Omagh, Co. Tyrone (0662 243292)

Emigration reconstruction of weavers' cottages, blacksmiths, an 18th-century boarding house before sea voyage with steerage passage squalor, then New World farmhouse, smoke house, corn crib. Easter-September. £2.60.

Sea Life Centre

Marine Parade, Brighton (0273 604233)

Mixture of Victorian and modern display techniques for sharks, stingrays, octopus, firm-



Invasion of the giant penguins: IMAX screen at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford

RE-CREATIONS

Jorvik Viking Centre

Coppergate, York YO1 INT (0904 643211)

Unique, being on the site where it happened. You travel in "time cars", hearing a commentary, through a reconstructed Viking settlement. A market street, houses with rubbish-choked yards and a cargo boat are seen before travelling through the excavated site of where it actually happened. £3.30, child £1.65.

The Tales of Robin Hood

30-38 Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, NG1 6CF (0602 483284)

"Time cars" into the greenwood to see figures, settings recreating the legends of the outlaws. Study research on the legends. Archery. £3.95, child £2.45.

Dark ride

past tableaux depicting 2,000 years of London's history, Romans, Vikings, hordes, the Blitz, with sounds, smells. £4.50, child £2.50.

White Cliffs

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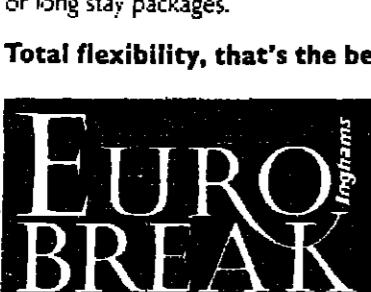
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TELEPHONE
081-780 0909
OR SEE YOUR LOCAL
ABTA TRAVEL AGENT
ABTA 36750, ATOL 025



Get all steamed up at the Beamish Open Air Museum



Get all steamed up at the Beamish Open

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

OUT AND ABOUT

31

tickle a stingray, look for electronic fleas and join in the monkey walk? See below!



Happy retirement: visit a veteran dolphin in Brighton

pets, anemones. Veteran dolphins, now retired. £3.95, child £2.90.

Sea Life Centre
Golden Mile Centre,
Promenade, Blackpool (0253
22445)

Multi-level viewing of sharks, stingrays, conger eels among hundreds of other creatures. £4.75, child £3.75.

Sea Life Centre
Scalby Mills,
Scarborough (0344 376125)

From shallow to watery deep, ocean tunnel for uninterrupted view of sharks, stingrays.

£3.60, child £2.25.

Sea Life Centre
Barcaline, Oban, Argyll
(0631 72386)

Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures, rock pools. Abandoned seal pups cared for before return to the wild. £3.85, child £2.50.

Sea Life Centre
The Scores, St Andrews,
Fife (0344 74796)

Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures. Rock pools. Seal breeding programme and playful mammals to be viewed. £3.85, child £2.50.

Northern Ireland
Aquarium
The Ropewalk, Castle
Street, Portaferry, Co. Down
(0247 728062)

Around 70 marine species found in Strangford Lough from octopus to conger eel. £1.50, child 85p.

Brixham Aquarium
The Quayside, Frixham
(0803 882204)

Collection of specimens found in UK waters, sharks, octopus, conger eel, etc. Easter-Sep. 75p, child 50p.

A World of Nature
15 Lansdown Road, Bude,
Devon (0288 32423)

Aquariums with what you find thrown up on the tide-line, such as crab, mermaid's purses, seaweed. Also woodland scene. 50p child 15p.

Natural World
The Quay, Pool (0202
836712)

Aquarium and serpentarium, snakes, piranhas, alligators.

£2.95, child £2.

BIRDWORLD

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Mill Road, Arundel, W.
Sussex (093 883355)

Variety of ducks, geese, swans in pens, lakes, paddocks. Fun to feed them with correct food.

£3.50, child £1.75.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
District 15, Washington,
Tyne and Wear (091 416
5454)

Flock of flamingos all named after characters in Catherine Cookson's books are among 1,200 birds. £2.95, child £1.50.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Martin Mere, Burscough,
Ormskirk, Lancs (0704
895181)

45 acres of waterfowl gardens, with more than 1,600 species from all over the world. £3.50, child £1.75.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Slimbridge, Glos (0453
890333)

World's largest collection of wildfowl, 2,500 individuals with some 180 different kinds. Tropical house. Cinema. £4, child £2.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Peakirk, nr Peterborough
(0733 252271)

100 species including flamingos, ducks, geese in 17 acres. £2.95, child £1.50.

Bentley Wildfowl
Reserve and Motor Museum
Halland, Nr Uckfield, E.
Sussex (0825 840573)

1,000 waterfowl, geese, ducks, flamingos, cranes. Also collection of roadworthy vintage and veteran cars. March-Oct. £3.10, child £1.50.

Bentley Wildfowl
Reserve and Motor Museum
Pintail House, Hundred
Foot Bank, Welney, nr
Wisbech, Cambs (0353
860711)

850 acres, observatory and hides, to view numerous birds, also butterflies and dragonflies in season. £2.70, child £1.35.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Caerlaverock Farm,
Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire
(0387 77200)

Normally open Sept-April for wintering geese, but from this year open through summer too. Roe deer, merlins, colony

of natterjack toads. £2.70, child £1.35.

Castle Espie Centre
78 Ballydrain Road,
Comber, Co. Down (0247
872517)

Ireland's largest collection of ducks, geese and swans. £2.20, child £1.20.

Wildfowl and
Wetlands Centre
Penclawdd, Llynnhendy,
Llanelli, Dyfed (0554
741087)

Newest and already attracting wildfowl like teal, shelduck, birds of prey. Most Wildfowl and Wetlands Centres have family tickets. £2.95, child £1.50.

Penshorpe Waterfowl
Park and Nature Reserve
Fakenham, Cambs (038
851465)

200 acres, lakes created from gravel pits. Torrent ducks, pygmy geese, oyster-catchers. Duck decoy shows how birds were once caught for market. April-Jan. £3.50, child £1.60.

Birdworld and
Underwaterworld
Holt Pound, Farnham,
Surrey (0420 22668)

1,000 birds from tiny hanging parrot to ostrich. Additionally, massive aquariums with blind cave fish, piranha, coral. £3.50, child £1.80. Underwater: 95p and 45p.

Wildfowl Park
Hayle, Cornwall (0736
753365)

Some 400 birds and animals in aviaries and paddocks. Emphasis on conservation. Falconry centre. Otter sanctuary. £4.25, child £2.25.

Tropical Bird Gardens
Rode, nr Bath (0373
830326)

In 17 acres of woodland, flower gardens, lakes, exotic birds free-flying or in cages. Breeding waterfowl, flamingos, parrots. £3.50, child £1.75.

IOW Rare Breeds and
Waterfowl Park
Undercliffe Drive, St
Lawrence, nr Ventnor (0983
852582)

Combination: 100 species of waterfowl and 40 rare breeds of cattle, deer, poultry in 30 acres. April-Oct. £2.10, child £1.30.

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Brambles English
Wildlife and Rare Breeds
Wealdon Forest Park,
Herne Common, Kent (0227
712379)

Under-fives playground with playhouses and small bikes. Farm animals, walk-in rabbit pen. Easter-Oct. £1.20, child £1.

Children's Farm
Great Knelle Farm,
Beckley, Kye (0792 60321)

Animals to feed, a rabbit village, miniature ponies. Easter-Oct. £3.75, child £1.

Drusillas Park
Alfriston, E. Sussex (0323
870234)

Viewing windows for monkey walk, meerkat mound, etc. at child level. Adventure playground for tots. Quizzes for three-year-olds upwards. £4.50, child £3.95.

Marwell Zoological
Park
Colden Common, near
Winchester (0962 777406)

Children's farmyard. Train rides through park. £5.20, child £2.40.

Kinderland
Burniston Road, North
Bay, Scarborough (0723
354555)

Toddler's own climbing village in multi-equipment playgrounds specially designed for under-14s. Easter-Sep. Easter £2.95; summer £3.75.

Dinosaur World
Elmias Park, Croydon Bay,
Chad (0492 518111)

Tiny tots' "Dinosaur Play Area" has smaller, friendly looking creatures. Easter-Sep. £1.50, child £1.

Playtime at Kinderland
Sept. £1.50, child £1.

Playworld
Florlands Garden
Centre, Catforth Lane,

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR UNDER-FIVES

Lambley, Notts (0602
670487)

A separate under-fives area in children's playpark with real fire engine, assault course.

Easter-Sep. £1, child £2.40.

Bethnal Green
Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road,
E2 (081 980 2415)

Saturday art workshops for three upwards with under-

fives' own painting corner in enormous toy collection where children are expected to be heard and seen. Free.

Playtime at Kinderland

Sept. £1.50, child £1.

Playworld

Florlands Garden

Centre, Catforth Lane,

£6.90, child £3.45.

Ravenglass and
 Eskdale Railway
Ravenglass, Cumbria
(0297 717171)

Mostly steam driven, through wonderful scenery.

April-Nov. £5.20, child £2.60.

Jonah's Journey
Rutherford Celebration
Centre, Rosamount Place,
Aberdeen (0224 647614)

Life in Biblical times. Dress

up, make oil lamps etc.

Splashing in a salad bowl

Valerie Grove
meets Europe's
most fashionable
swimming
instructor, who is in
Hampshire to teach
humbler mortals
the techniques he
has passed on to
stars and royalty



Golden youth: Pierre Gruneberg at Cap Ferrat in 1952

This is Pierre Gruneberg's charmed life. He spends the four summer months at the Hotel Bel-Air at Cap Ferrat on the Côte d'Azur. In the four winter months he is at Courchevel, at another grand hotel, Les Aiglons, in the French Alps. In between, he spends two months in Paris, and two months travelling the world. "It is quite a nice arrangement. Voilà."

What he did to deserve this life was to become, at the age of 18, a swimming instructor: not a route to global fame as a rule, but M Gruneberg is easily Europe's most fashionable. He has been teaching swimming on the Riviera for 40 years; he gave lessons to the families of Picasso, Cocteau, Charlie Chaplin, Onassis. And for the next few days he will be teaching swimming classes at Chewton Glen, the Hampshire hotel.

The story of M Gruneberg's love affair with his swimming pool is deeply romantic. His German parents (a lawyer and a teacher of English) brought him up in Paris, where he was destined to become an interpreter with Uno.

But when he hitch-hiked to the Riviera in 1949, hoping to earn money teaching swimming for the summer, he looked at Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo — and then saw the pool at the Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat (as it was then known), an Olympic-sized pool on a promontory overlooking the sea, and fell so deeply in love he never wanted to leave it. And he never has.

"I was in shorts and rucksack, and I asked to see the manager, an old man of 72, very nice but very strict. I said I would wait for hours, I did not care how long. Then I said to him, 'I have fallen in love with

your pool and I want to be your swimming instructor,' and he said, 'We have one already.' 'Well,' I said, 'maybe one day... and I speak English, French, German, Italian.' And he told me to wait a minute.

"The fellow they had did not speak languages. Then he brought out a picture of three beautiful girls in bathing costumes and asked me, 'What do you think of this picture?' I was panicking because I knew that my whole future depended on my answer. I was lucky because I gave him the answer he was hoping for: I said, 'These are beautiful girls, but I came here to work, not to chase girls.' And later I heard that the fellow they had was a terrible girl-chaser. The following month I got the contract for the first year, 1950."

It turned out to be his vocation: "I had to teach people to swim, to be with people. I think now I would have been a miserable interpreter." Celebrities who gravitated to the Riviera tended to congregate around his pool and even the most glamorous among them needed to learn to swim, or had children who did, or at least wanted to improve their crawl, with the *maitre baigneur*.

So his leather-bound scrapbook contains the signatures, drawings and photographs of all the Riviera's most famous *habitues*: David Niven, Somerset Maugham (Maugham's house, *La Mauvaise*, lately famous as the house Fergie went to with Steve Wyatt, is just next door)... Here is Picasso, who came in 1953 with Cocteau. Cocteau did that drawing for me and Picasso did that. Here is Jacques Tati, on holiday like M Hulot, but I gave him a few tips.

He has seen the Riviera change completely, from a local resort where well-to-do doctors and business men lived, who would visit the pool with their families. "Today it is more clients: Saudis, Japanese and so on. It is a different world: not worse or better, but different." (The hotel is now Japanese owned: they also have the Bel Air in Hollywood, hence the renaming.)

He says he could teach anyone to swim in half an hour: the secret is to begin simply. "I like to make difficult things easy for people. I'm not interested in training kids who are very, very good: I want to make difficult sports easy." So when he

"Here is Capucine the model, Onassis... I taught his daughter Christina to swim. This is a letter from Somerset Maugham inviting me to dinner... Adal Stevenson, Sacha Distel, Shirley Bassey — a wonderful pupil who really learnt how to crawl well — Donald Campbell and Tonia Bern, King Baudouin of the Belgians, King Umberto of Italy, Porfirio Rubirosa, Princess Soraya. Paul McCartney's children wrote me this little verse called 'Frog, scissor, pencil' because when you learn the breaststroke these are the three shapes you make: *grenouille*, *ciseaux*, *crayon*."

The succession of autographs is punctuated by press cuttings how the *maitre nageur* saved six people from drowning, how he coached the French team at the Melbourne Olympics, and how he introduced short ski to France.

The skiing pictures are equally jet-setty. "Here are the Kennedy sisters, Pat and Jean, Uri Geller, Gerard Depardieu, the jockey Yves St Martin, Isabelle Adjani, Claire Bretecher, the cartoonist Johnny Holiday drew me with his guitar. Belmondo is here with his son Paul; here is Brigitte Bardot who has skied with me several times at Chevallier."

Most people's family albums turn out to be dominated by poolside, skiing or other holiday-location scenes with everyone smiling, tanned and happy: imagine, M Gruneberg says, for him every day is like this. He is the most contented soul. He sees people at their best, in their most relaxed mood. When not teaching he is organising races, gymnastic classes, fancy-dress parties.

He has seen the Riviera change



In at the deep end: Pierre Gruneberg prepares his teaching aids for his lessons at Chewton Glen hotel in Hampshire

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teaches wind-surfing, he starts people off in the swimming pool, because the main problem is getting up; when he teaches swimming, he starts them off not in the pool but in a salad bowl.

Breathing is the main problem with swimming. "Ninety per cent of the people I have taught have problems with breathing. But in the pool, they panic, so I take them out of the water and show them scientifically in a salad bowl because it is transparent. First I teach people how to blow bubbles

and sing out, exhaling slowly, into the bowl. Instead of saying 'blow', which makes them think they have no air left, I say 'sing' and they sing out bubbles under the water. It is an extremely simple method. We spend half an hour or three quarters on this before getting into the water at all."

A friend of mine who always used to swim like a swan, with neck stuck out of the water, had half an hour with M Gruneberg last year and has been swimming like a fish ever since."

Every day M Gruneberg swims three miles in the sea at Cap Ferrat:

● Pierre Gruneberg will be at Chewton Glen until Thursday, April 16 (0425 275341)

Cracking up over Easter eggs? Maybe now is the time to make a change...

Gifts with a difference

Eggs have been inseparable from Easter as a symbol of spiritual resurrection since the dawn of Christianity. The first chocolate eggs were produced in France in the early 19th century, and today the British spend about £214 million each year on them.

But for those reluctant to spend a lot for fancy packaging containing only a little chocolate, there are imaginative alternative Easter gifts available by mail order.

● Humorous set of six sterling silver, egg-shaped place-card holders, each with a different facial expression, cost £460 (£3 p&p, free delivery in London) from Garrard, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 7020).

● Hand-painted porcelain Herend rabbit in green, blue or rust, £76 per pair; chubby single bunny, £130; porcelain bird-with-egg trinket boxes by artist Philippe Deshoulier, £50 each; long-handled horn egg spoons, from £30. All from Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2823). P&p extra.

● Realistic looking 10in-tall yolky breakfast egg in a yellow, black or green eggcup is really a teapot in disguise, £26.85 plus £3.95 p&p from the Tea House, 15 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 0135).

● Peter Rabbit slippers for children £8.75 plus £1.75 p&p from Frog Hollow, 15 Victoria Grove, London W11 (071-581 5493).

● Simnel cakes have been associated with Easter for more than 300 years. The name derives from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine flour. Traditional simnel cakes attractively decorated with a marzipan nest and praline songbirds eggs cost £15.95 plus £5.20 p&p from the Harrogate Bakery, Betty's By Post (0423 531211). Last telephone orders to be received by Monday.

cost about £35 inc p&p from Direct Import, Clapton Manor, Clapton-on-the-Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, GL54 2LG (0451 20255).

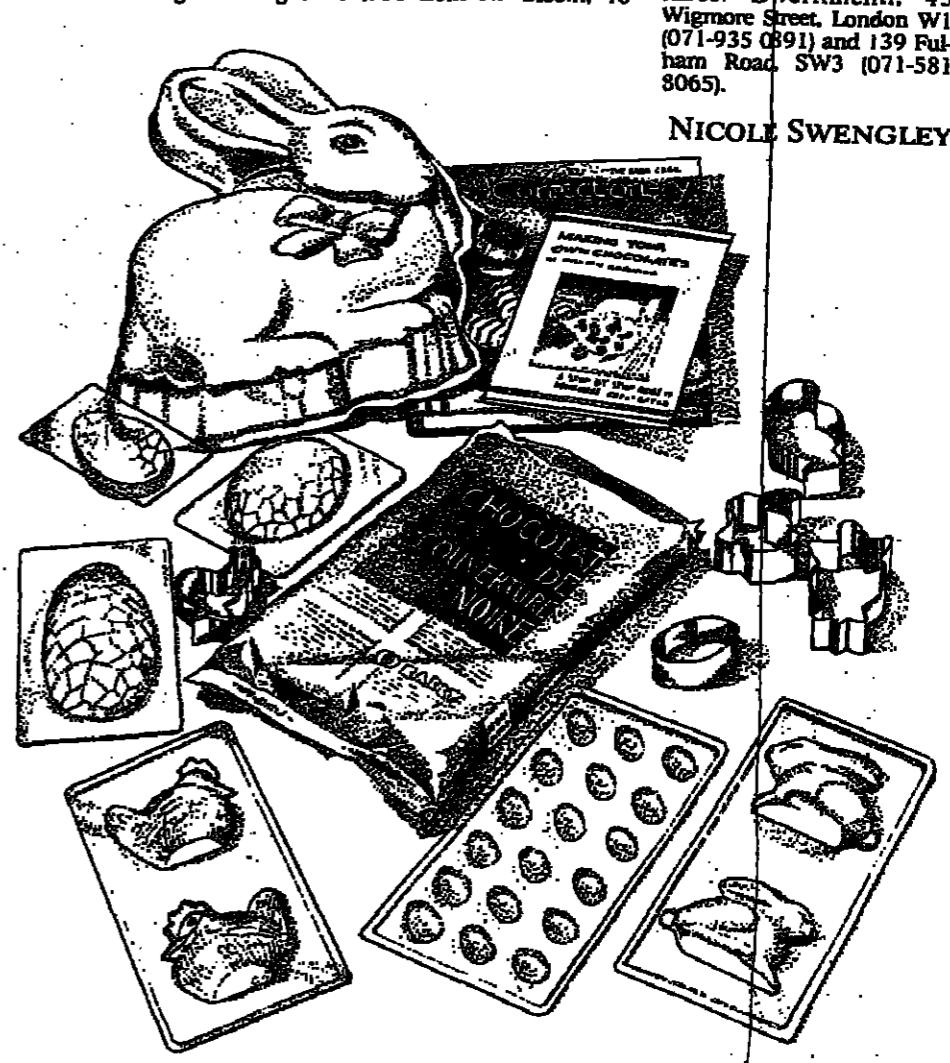
● Silver egg cufflinks, £55, also other animal shapes from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234).

● Easter fritters (*longiflorum*), with their white trumpet blooms, have a delicate perfume and cost £14.99 for five stems, or £19 for ten, including nationwide delivery, from Exotic Direct (0798 812340). Orders by Wednesday.

● Hand-painted enamel Limoges egg-shaped opening boxes in a range of designs

cost about £35 inc p&p from Divertimenti, 45 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 0891) and 139 Fulham Road, SW3 (071-581 8065).

NICOLE SWENGLY



The only equipment you really need to be slim and fit again.

Starting this Sunday, for three weeks, the Sunday Times Magazine brings you Bodyfit.

A simple exercise and diet regime to get you fit, slim and full of energy for the summer.

It's been specially designed for you by Josh Salzman, the exercise trainer who got the Duchess of York and John Cleese into shape.

Everything you need - a chair, a wall, perhaps a partner - you already have in your home.

It's an easy-does-it plan that will improve your strength, your energy and your mental awareness as well as your waistline.

Bodyfit. Your first exercise is a nice, gentle stroll to the newsagent.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Pottery exotica from a Brixton kiln

Although the Prince of Wales liked her work, potter Kate Byrne still felt she had to run away to build her self-confidence. Vinny Lee reports

Kate Byrne is busy tending the tropical menagerie she has created. Two large dodos — one resplendent with a plumed headdress (reminiscent of Diana Cooper's favourite feather-adorned hat), the other with a quizzical grin — sit in a corner looking at each other.

Below them on a table, bobbled geckos scamper over stacks of brightly coloured plates and saucers. Shelves are stacked with bunches of vivid yellow, orange and green prickly pears, star fruit, sugar apples and mangoes hanging on bowls, cups and mugs.

"Don't touch, they're hot," warns the protectively gloved potter, as she unloads another batch of her painted wares from the kiln. Ms Byrne's exotic haven — in the grime and bustle of Brixton, south London — is all her own making. This time last year it was like an underwater cavern, filled with rows upon rows of pottery fish shaped into toothbrush holders, light pulls, soap and cotton-wool boxes.

Ms Byrne started her ceramics business in October 1985, with financial help from the Enterprise Allowance scheme.

Her talent was recognised early on — all the work she prepared for her degree show was bought at her college end-of-term exhibition.

When Liberty opened its bathroom shop in the basement of its Regent Street store in London, it commissioned Ms Byrne to design a range of bathroom accessories — hence the shoals of fish dishes and holders.

She also may have a royal fan. To commemorate his official opening of the studio workshop in Deptford, south London (where Ms Byrne used to be based), the Prince of Wales was presented with one of her bird-shaped jugs.

Later, when the Prince had gone, his equerry came back to her workshop and bought two more bird jugs, destination unknown — "but I like to think they were for the Prince," Ms Byrne says.

Stuart Mansell and Janet Hill of J.K. Hill British Studio Ceramics are also aware of Ms Byrne's talent



Far from extinct: Kate Byrne with her sculpted dodos in the colourful, tropical paradise she has created in her Brixton studio, where the Prince of Wales's equerry came to buy several of her bird jugs

and are providing the venue for her solo show from April 14 to May 2 at their Old Brompton Road, London, studio.

"It is difficult to find a potter with the diversity to justify a solo exhibition," Mr Mansell says. "But Kate's work is not only very fine in its execution, but also has variety and a great use of colour."

Among the more than 70 pieces of work on show will be examples of her studio sculpture, such as the two large dodos (about £600 each), two strutting cockerels (20in high), a hen apparently sitting on eggs, a set

of running ducks and various large, carved and decorated pots, one featuring leaping fish that form the spout and handles.

As well as the one-off sculptural work, Ms Byrne will also be showing and selling her tableware. The brightly coloured, Spanish-style gecko and fruit designs start at £12.30 for a soup or cereal bowl, £17.04 for an 8in side plate and £17.60 for mugs and jugs. Prices rise to £21.74 for dinner plates, £37.60 for a serving platter and £54 for a teapot.

The inspiration for the gecko and

fruit designs came last summer when Ms Byrne "ran away".

"I was caught in a vicious circle," she explains. "Orders came in for the hand-painted, press-moulded ranges I had been producing for some time, and I was constantly working to fulfil those orders. I couldn't find the time to develop new ideas or to do any sculptural work, which is my first love."

"In the end I decided that the only way to resolve the problem was to go away."

"So I finished all the orders I had taken and then went off to Spain

and Greece and worked in a bar for a couple of months.

"I did a little painting, but I mainly relaxed and learnt to be more assertive."

Ms Byrne's next collection may have an even more exotic theme, because she will be spending four weeks from the end of May working in the Philippines.

"I was approached by John Jenkins, a firm of china importers, to send some photographs of my work for consideration for an EC-funded design project.

"I stuck a few bits and pieces in

an envelope and sent them off, but I'm always sending photographs and samples off, so I didn't really think much more about it."

"A few weeks later I had a phone call telling me that I had been appointed as a design consultant to Philippines co-operative of 15 pottery factories.

"The factories are very good at painting and producing, but they need some help in developing ideas and techniques. Helping other potters to create colour schemes and new styles will be a wonderful change from the days when I used

to hand-paint fish dishes by the hundred."

• Kate Byrne's exhibition from April 14 to May 2 is at J.K. Hill British Studio Ceramics, 89 Old Brompton Road, SW3. Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am-8pm; Saturday, 9.30am-7pm; Sunday, 3-7pm. Further details about the exhibition from 071-584 7529.

• For details of stockists nationwide contact Kate Byrne at Clockwise Studios, 38 Southwell Road, SE5 9PG (071-274 0034). Her work will also be at Creative Eye, Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 from April 30 to May 4. Opening times 10am-6pm daily. Admission £5.

Taking up royal alms

The annual ritual of distributing the Maundy money will take place in Chester cathedral next Thursday. This, the day before Good Friday, is when the monarch gives specially minted coins to a group of "deserving pensioners", while dealers play the role of money-changers in the temple, trying to acquire the coins for resale to collectors.

Buckingham Palace is sniffy about this secondary ritual, saying it soils one of our most ancient traditions. But the dealers say that the original purpose of Maundy money, or the Royal Bounty as it is also called, was alms.

"The choice lies with the recipients whether to sell," Michael Harrison, of Coins International of Leeds, says. "The value of the coins may mean more to them than that of cherishing them," he says, adding that a pensioner can exchange a full presentation set for around £250.

It may come as a surprise, therefore, to discover that Maundy money from earlier eras is under-valued as a collectable. A James II set, as new, would be worth £400 to £500, but most sets are valued at £50 to £150.

Maundy money can be recommended as an ideal field for anyone thinking of starting a collection. "They are an endearing little series of coins," Mark Rasmussen, an expert at Spink and Son, the dealers and auctioneers, says. They are also the only British coins produced today in sterling silver.

One useful tool for collectors

Next week dealers will be hoping to snap up some of the Queen's Maundy money

will be Silver Pennies & Linen Towels, *The Story of the Royal Maundy*, published by Spink (£29.95), which is an essential guide to other categories of royal alms, such as the King's Dole.

Maundy comes from the

Latin *mandatum*, or commandment, and refers to the moment when, after washing the disciples' feet, Christ delivered the command: "I have set you an example; you are to do as I have done for you."

Following his example of

humility, Edward II started the tradition in 1213 of giving food, clothing and money to 13 poor men on Maundy Thursday. Henry IV decided to link the number of recipients with the sovereign's age, a practice that continues today (this year, the Queen will give 66 pence to 66 men and 66 women.)

Maundy money dates from 1670; the profiled heads on one side change with the monarch. The earlier the monarch, on the whole, the more endearing the image.

Despite surviving 700 years, the Maundy ceremony nearly died in the 1930s when, according to the Right Reverend David Say, the Lord High Almoner from 1970 to 1988, it was "in danger of becoming nothing but a picturesque and perhaps rather meaningless survival from the past".

The present queen's decision to hold the ceremony in different parts of the country, returning to London once every ten years, has given it a new lease of life, he says.

Mr Rasmussen at Spink says collectors tend to acquire coins one by one, with the intention of building up a complete set. Sources are the numerous coin fairs which take place throughout the country, and specialist dealers.

SARAH JANE
CHECKLAND

● Silver Pennies & Linen Towels (Spink & Son, King Street, WI, 071-930 7888, £29.95).

● See *The Times* English Civil War commemorative coin offer, page 37.

Alms: a complete set of Maundy money could fetch £250

Buying beautiful designer curtains can be cheaper than you might think

Draped in style

curtains led me on an endless round of auctions."

The answer was to set up her own secondhand shop in Fulham, shortly after Liz Meston and Julian Galvin had started a similar venture in Boxford, near Colchester, Essex. Then the three got to know about each other and decided to pool their ideas.

Customers wishing to sell agree a price with the shop and leave the curtains for up to six months, after which they

are either returned or sent to the charity Shelter. The Curtain Exchange will arrange to collect, takes 40 per cent of the selling price, and never discloses the identity of a vendor.

The group turns away curtains it thinks unlikely to sell.

Brown is the least popular colour, and 1960s styles with braided borders do not sell well. "Blue and yellow are popular, and terracotta, chintzes, plain calicos and linens are doing well. Men

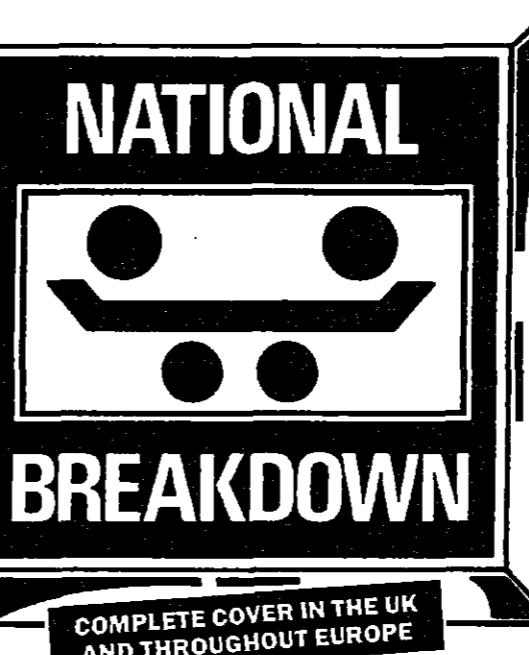
seem to like green," Mrs Horsford says.

Among those for sale are a shot silk, pinch-pleated, lined pair with an 84in drop for an 8ft-wide window at £270, and a pair in calico, 140in wide with a 12ft drop, for £420.

The curtains come from private houses, interior designers recouping money from mistakes they have made, show flats and hotels.

KAY MARLES

● For branches, call Mrs Horsford at The Curtain Exchange, 133 Stephendale Road, London SW6 (071-731 8316).



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Taking stock of country life in the raw: Gudrun Holmes and her son Beorn, aged 12, at their isolated stone-built Welsh cottage, a two-mile walk to the nearest road

Alone in the magic valley

In search of the good life, the Holmeses from London tell Brenda Parry how they survive in the wilds of Snowdonia

Many would envy the away-from-it-all lives of Clyde and Gudrun Holmes, but others would shudder at the prospect of doing without the basic home comforts, such as electricity and running water.

Later-day hippies they are not: Mr Holmes is a successful landscape artist and poet, and Mrs Holmes a German interpreter for Frankfurt University. Twenty years ago, while living in Hampstead, north London, they saw in the ruins of a deserted shepherd's cottage in Snowdonia the chance for a simple, uncluttered lifestyle.

Arranging to meet the Holmes was difficult: they have no telephone and even the postman can't make it to the door. A series of messages left with friends eventually brought Mr Holmes to a public telephone. "You will find us on an Ordnance Survey map," he said, giving me a precise reference. "You can bring the car fairly close, but you will have to walk the final mile or so."

The two-mile walk to Cwm Hesgin is treacherous, even in spring, but despite the wind and rain there was no mistaking the magic of this remote valley. All signs of civilisation drop from sight; only the screech of buzzards breaks the silence. It was not difficult to believe that last winter their daughter Malka's boyfriend nearly died after collapsing in a snowdrift.

Why move to such a place? "I had lived in the Ruhr in Germany and loved London's concert halls and galleries, but they served only as a compensation for the traffic and noise of the city," Mrs Holmes says. "I never had the rounded and

complete life that I have here."

Mr Holmes was born and brought up in London and went to St Martin's and Hornsey Colleges of art after London University. He and his wife had spent little time in the countryside. Now, his first task of the day, at 6am, is to draw and carry eight buckets of water from a well 50 yards away from the cottage for washing and cooking.

The lifestyle in Cwm Hesgin is quiet and gentle, even though there is a steady trickle of visitors who arrive in time for lunch, and invariably stay until the following morning. Mr Holmes paints only in natural light; in the evenings he works on his poetry, sometimes until 2am. Mrs Holmes writes all her translations by hand. They often work late into the night by the light of paraffin lamps and candles.

The family takes it in turn to cook their vegetarian meals. Mrs Holmes tackles delicious pies, cakes and bread. As well as the wood-burning Rayburn, they use Calor gas for cooking.

The north Wales retreat was suggested to them while they were house hunting on a large Welsh estate. Cwm Hesgin was a derelict cottage, roofless and deserted for 20 years. For more than a year, they hitch-hiked to and from Wales every weekend, making the cottage habitable. Twenty years later they believe they have blended in with their magnificent surroundings of heather-clad hills, with gentle streams and waterfalls and a tiny lake strewn with water lilies.

"Thursday is certainly an important day in our lives," Mrs Holmes says. "That's the day I take the washing to the launderette in Bala. Some friends say this is a very non-alternative thing to do, but I don't care. Neither do I care that we might look like Bedouins carting a week's shopping, washing and paraffin back to the bus."

Mr Holmes says it took about two years for the romance of moving into the cottage to merge

into reality, despite the weather sometimes preventing them leaving the house for days. The summer months are the best, when they can swim in the lake and night and day seem to merge into one.

Malka, who was educated by her parents up to A-level, has recently spent a year at college doing a fine arts foundation course. "I liked the telly and being able to switch on the fire at will, but I can't say I ever miss them," she says.

Mr Holmes had his primary education at home, but because of the demands of the national curriculum he is now in his second year at the secondary school in Bala. He walks two miles to the road and takes a taxi for the remaining three.

The family's only concession to modernity is a radio — vital for weather forecasts. "Our life is governed by the weather," Mr Holmes says. "When I feel the need for solitude, then I have it."

But even in Cwm Hesgin there is no escape from 20th-century technology. Since the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster, the beautiful valley has shown more signs of radiation than anywhere else in the area. The Holmes can no longer grow their own vegetables or milk their goat, and sheep in the area are still the subject of government restrictions.

But while the land is contaminated, the water from the seemingly bottomless well is still pure, otherwise the Holmes could be facing a very different future.

at the Victoria & Albert exhibition of works by artists painting in the National Parks. His painting, like his poetry, is highly acclaimed.

While he works, Mrs Holmes often entertains. The family has friends around the world. Hill-walkers who have sought shelter at the house when the weather has turned bad often join that circle.

"Just because I live in a lonely place, doesn't mean I have to cut myself off from what is happening in the rest of the world," Mrs Holmes says. "When I feel the need for solitude, then I have it."

But even in Cwm Hesgin there is no escape from 20th-century technology. Since the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster, the beautiful valley has shown more signs of radiation than anywhere else in the area. The Holmes can no longer grow their own vegetables or milk their goat, and sheep in the area are still the subject of government restrictions.

But while the land is contaminated, the water from the seemingly bottomless well is still pure, otherwise the Holmes could be facing a very different future.

Heap of the week: Combe Abbey

A prize to cherish

THERE are almost as many ducks and swans on the moat at Combe Abbey as in St James's Park, London. But venture inside the house and talk to the ladies who run medieval banquets in the ground-floor rooms and they say: "We cross our fingers and hope the rain doesn't pour through the ceiling."

As an "economy" measure the council decided to stop all maintenance in 1985, just after completing extensive stonework repairs. Outside, there are no obvious signs of slipped slates. "It's the hidden gutters which are choked with dead pigeons," I was told. "As a result the water gradually works its way into the roof and down through the ceilings. In the cloister the falling damp now meets the rising damp."

Coventry Council is unlikely to serve a repair notice on itself and though Combe is a Grade I building, the secretary of state for the environment has only been known to intervene on three occasions in 20 years to demand the repair of a decaying building. Perhaps a visit from the national audit office would help.

The council has therefore turned to commercial development as the solution, drawing up a scheme with Lumley Castle Ltd, the medieval banquet hotel in Co Durham and the parent company of the Combe operation. What has understandably incensed Coventry's Georgian Group is that outline planning permission was pushed through by Rugby District Council before detailed plans were submitted, in breach of normal listed building practice. The group is also opposing plans to create a golf course in the Capability Brown park and an application to build a visitors' centre beside the entrance avenue.

Reassurance may come from the quality of the advisory team recruited by Millington's, the consultants promoting the scheme. It includes the leading archaeologist Warwick Rodwell.

the conservation architect Martin Ashley, and Hal Moggridge, the landscape architect. It is hoped that English Heritage will make it a condition of any listed building consent that this team is kept together.

The abbey, founded in 1150, became the richest in Warwickshire, but after the Dissolution it was sold in 1622 to the Cravens and remained in the family until 1923. The cloister walls date from the 15th century. The pedimented west range, added to the designs of Captain William Winde in the 1680s, is one of the most handsome Charles II fronts in the country. A vast east wing was added in the 1860s by the gifted architect W. Eden Nesfield, whose father laid out the formal gardens.

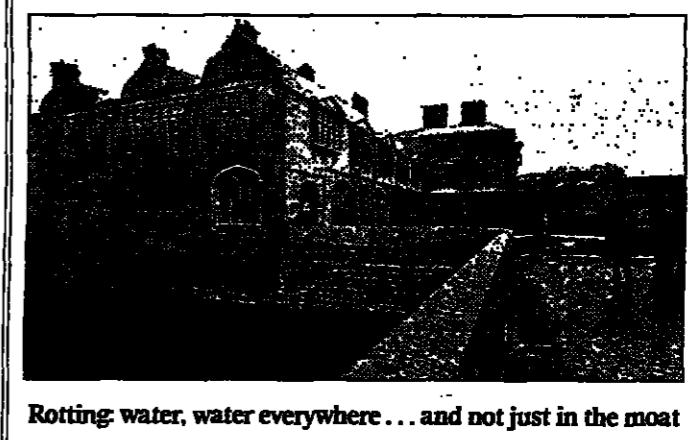
In the 1920s the house was sold to a local builder, who stripped fireplaces, woodwork and ceilings and gradually demolished the house to leave a single wing to live in.

Fortunately, during a three-day sale in 1925, many items were left unsold and remained in the house. During the second world war, the RAF moved in and in the 1960s, Coventry Council bought the house and set about reacquiring the parkland.

One course now would be to reconstruct the Nesfield's demolished wing on the surviving, early foundations. Mr Ashley says he is committed to creating a new wing in keeping with the house and in the spirit of Nesfield. Everything therefore depends on the quality of his solution and the willingness of the developers to use good materials. Given the importance of Combe, nothing short of the best is acceptable.

MARCUS BINNEY

• Further information from David Bate of Millingtons on 0908 691944 or Mr Patel at Coventry Leisure Services 0203 833333.



Rotting water, water everywhere... and not just in the moat

Homing in on handouts

How one man saved more than £60,000 restoring his house with the aid of grants

Walk up the stone front steps of Roger Howe's Georgian terraced house in Twickenham, knock on the dark green door, and one is transported back to the 18th century. The house is model Palladian, with its original brick, complete with lime pointing, sash windows with their box shutters, and perfect proportions.

Yet only 18 months ago the house was a confusion of Victoriana and rickety 1960s extensions. Expensive work, surely? In fact, Mr Howe took advantage of a number of little-publicised government grants and concessions which contributed a hefty £61,501 to his £142,512 bill. As the owner of a Grade II* listed house (a starred Grade II house is more historically interesting than just Grade II), most of his alterations were free of VAT, saving £25,583.

He also received £13,818 in grants from English Heritage and Richmond council, and indirectly saved an estimated £22,100 through free advice from English Heritage and the council's conservation office. The advice saved him from unnecessary work builders might have foisted on him.

The key to unlocking government money for restoring your house, be it listed or not, is the council. Planners must approve



blueprints before they concede a penny in grants or VAT.

Most people ask an architect or surveyor to draw up plans. For a house like Mr Howe's, Renaissance, a Bath-based company which specialises in restoring listed buildings, charges about £1,200.

Applying for government grants is surprisingly informal. The local

planner and architect will discuss improvements and possible grant assistance, usually on site. Grants, which can pay up to 40 per cent of individual refurbishment costs, come from councils (£26 million last year) and English Heritage (£33 million), both of which fund the reinstatement of architectural features and environmental improvements. English Heritage tends to award money for what are deemed more historically important buildings, or buildings at risk.

Planning permission granted (a charge of about £60 for an ordinary listed house), the owner of a listed building also needs to get "listed building consent" which is free. Once work has started, a further fee of about £50 is paid to the council for approval that the work is proceeding in accordance with building regulations. The builder must keep a careful tally of all material and work costs so that VAT is not charged. In theory, work involving alteration or improvement agreed by the local council's planners is eligible for VAT concessions, except "maintenance and repairs".

"Repairs are often a grey area," says Adrian Dobinson, a director of Renaissance. "The confusion comes when work could be described as both an alteration and a repair. For example, a rotten window frame might have to be replaced with a new one. Is this a repair or an alteration?"

There are 700,000 listed buildings in Britain, and 8,000 conservation areas in which similar rules apply. But getting at the benefits is obfuscated by a government which does not advertise them.

The general financial system is in place, but only a few people know how to supplement grants with VAT. On average, you could save £10,500 off a typical bill," Mr Dobinson says.

However, John Sell, architect and former chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, warns: "Only a minority of listed buildings will obtain grants from English Heritage. A large proportion of work needed to keep historic buildings in good repair will be charged for VAT."

Far from preserving historic buildings, the present VAT rules encourage the destruction of original historic fabric, he argues, as VAT concession applies to alterations rather than repairs.

RACHEL KELLY

Plugged in to history

HOUSE HUNTER

Tangmere Cottage
Chichester



Tangmere: a safe house for wartime flyers and Resistance fighters

Tangmere Cottage was the perfect cover. Its unprepossessing red brick walls, cosy bay windows and clipped lawns are the picture of pleasant Sussex domesticity.

Nobody guessed that during the second world war its true role was as the headquarters of the Special Duties Squadron.

The squadron's daredevil pilots ferried Resistance supplies into occupied France and brought undercover agents, and downed bomber crews back to the cottage. Almost 50 years on it is on the market for £225,000.

Temporary French residents at Tangmere included two then future presidents of France, François Mitterrand and Vincent Orieil as well as heroes of the Resistance. British agents who stopped there included Peter Churchill and Tommy Yeo-Thomas.

"Part of Tangmere's charm was its cosiness, with low beams and log fires. It was quite unlike any officers' mess," Group Captain Hugh Verity, who wrote about life at Tangmere in his book *We Landed by Moonlight*, has said. In his book he describes the upstairs of the cottage as rather like a "cheap Turkish hotel" with the bedrooms crammed with as many beds as could be squeezed in.

Through the kitchen was the operations/crew room, with a big map of France marked with flak-defended areas.

Buyers' Italy

TUSCANY

ON THE borders of Tuscany and Umbria, this stone farm building, with half an acre of land, is for sale at £24,864, close to the village of Petrelle.

It is 15km from Trestina, which is on main train lines, and the international airport at Florence can be reached in 90 minutes.

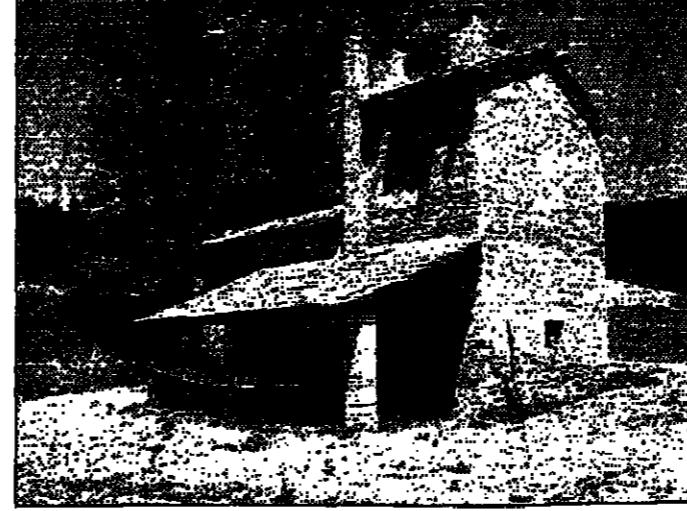
The building is structurally sound, but requires extensive work to make it habitable to modern standards. The access

road is good and

electricity is available nearby, but a well needs to be dug for water. It has a large kitchen and living-room on the ground floor; two bedrooms and a primitive bathroom upstairs and a third bedroom in the tower.

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Information: Brian A. French & Associates, 12 High Street, Knaresborough, North Yorks (0423 367047 or 071-284 0114).



Unrestored: this stone farmhouse in half an acre will cost £24,864

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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

GARDENING

Beauty across the border

Francesca

Greenoak explores Edinburgh's impressive Royal Botanic Garden

Beautifully set in 65 acres of hillside to the north of Edinburgh, the Royal Botanic Garden is a compulsory stopping place on any gardener's itinerary. Even on a grey day, this well kept garden is welcoming, inviting you to enjoy a horticultural excellence hard to match, and some of the best views over the city.

There is a fine long list of important plants and collections, but it is particular details which attract the individual visitor. For me it was the trees among them mature oaks, cedars, beech, monkey puzzle and southern beech (*Nothofagus*).

There is an impressive collection of birches, looking their best at this time of year, with their delicate branching, and differently coloured barks. The dazzling white *Betula jacquemontii*, in the form known as Inverleith (after this garden), keeps its pallor and shape into maturity.

Alder trees are favourites of mine, so I was delighted to see one new to me: the graceful *Alnus firma*, a Japanese species with beautiful green-gold male catkins, followed by toothed leaves almost as deeply veined as hornbeam foliage. I was also pleased to find a fine specimen of the Montpellier maple (similar to field maple but with three-lobed leaves). This is another small, unusual tree which could be grown in more gardens.

The most spectacular residents in the sheltered southeastern corner of the garden, which is reserved for heat plants, are tree heathers — not always reliably hardy but here reaching 10 feet, billowing with white flower-filled foliage.

The famous rock garden, recently restored, is dotted with spring flowers, including several geographical forms of the most graceful daffodils of all, the wild *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. There are also tulips from northern America, spring gentians, and early primulas.

The best view of the city is from the high rhododendron walk, which circles Inverleith House. Within the shady recesses provided by these great showy plants grow



Studied delight: Michael Barrett, a horticulture student, among the magnificent rhododendrons which encircle Inverleith House

tender species, such as the blushing-flowered *R. recurvirostra*. Emerging on the far side, you drop down to one of the longest herbaceous borders in Britain (quiet at this time of year) and backed by a most beautifully kept beech hedge, immensely tall and narrow, like a formal 17th-century screen.

Hedges become a theme in the recently created demonstration area, which has a wide range of hedging plants, all perfectly main-

tained and clearly labelled. These hedges also serve as bays for other displays: shrubs recommended for Scottish gardens, threatened native plants, and botanical display beds with special relevance to gardeners.

Although the different growing areas are continuously enriched by research work carried out by the botanists attached to them, the learning is lightly worn. The policy is to delight and educate rather than thrust knowledge at you. Even

the glasshouses which contain the research collections are designed to please the eye and senses.

The main exhibition house, cleverly built with an external skeleton to give unimpeded scope within, is sectioned off into a temperate area, a warm humid forest of tree ferns, cacti in dry cool (restraining growth until light levels improve), and two aquatic houses.

Victoria water-lilies are a sum-

ertime speciality in the tropical pool. An underground gallery enables visitors to view the elegant and complicated veining of the huge leaves from beneath, a characteristic idea for a botanic garden which everywhere encourages appreciation of the unusual as well as the obvious beauty of plants.

● The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Inverleith Row, Canonmills (1½ miles north of the city centre). Open daily (except Dec 25/Jan 1), spring 10am-6pm, summer 10am-8pm. Free.

BEST BUY

THE scented violet, one of the most sweetly fragrant early spring flowers, is easy to grow and will self-seed from cracks and alongside paths, but it is not always easy to obtain. There are several forms, all hardy: the white and double white, the deep pink Coeur d'Alsace or new Pink Beauty. A selection of seven scented violets is available from the specialist growers Paradise Centre, Twinstead Road, Lambshead, near Bures, Suffolk CO8 5EX; £16.50 inc p&p, or £30 for two packs. Despatched in May.

● Plant bare-rooted trees or bushes (including roses) now.

● Dig deep-rooted weeds, such as dandelion, out of lawns with a thin-bladed trowel.

● Prune forsythia, flowering currants and spring-flowering shrubs before blooms fade.

● Sow greenhouse and conservatory plants, such as abutilon, browallia and Campanula (sophyra).

● Plant asparagus crowns in well-drained, weed-free ground.

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● Sow greenhouse and conservatory plants, such as abutilon, browallia and Campanula (sophyra).

● Plant asparagus crowns in well-drained, weed-free ground.

● The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Inverleith Row, Canonmills (1½ miles north of the city centre). Open daily (except Dec 25/Jan 1), spring 10am-6pm, summer 10am-8pm. Free.

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The cultural revelation

David Lipsey finds that introducing children to the arts is not an easy affair

If the opera boom has missed my stepchildren out, I have only myself to blame. Ten something seemed the right age to acquaint them with its glories. The youngest was enjoying Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at school, so Handel's opera of the same name seemed the ideal choice.

Three and a half hours later we staggered out, having watched far ladies and gentlemen waddle on in costumes that would have disgraced a primary school pantomime, and deliver arabs of stunning dullness in which every *da capo* was observed to the last semi-demi-quaver.

Whenever either child dared shift a weary buntock, scratch an ear or draw breath, a man in the row behind, presumably as bored at the proceedings as the children were, hissed at them to shut up. As adults, both are now extremely interested in the human voice, but only if it is backed by drums and guitars at loud volume.

Too late I learnt the first rule of child acculturation: choose carefully. Introducing Becky, my eight-year-old daughter, to opera could not have been more different. *Christmas Eve*, at London's Coliseum, was the ideal introduction for children, from the witch floating down from the sky in Act 1, through the fairy-tale cart pulled by the devil to the happy ending. Alas it finished in January, but you might do equally well with the same company's *Barber of Seville*. Alternatively you could start with ballet. The Birmingham Royal Ballet's *Giselle* is at Eastbourne's Congress Theatre from Monday, or the Scottish Ballet's *Coppelia* is at the Edinburgh Playhouse from the same day.

In general, the task of the parent wishing to introduce culture to the child is much easier than it used to be. Take museums, for example. When I was a lad we did not have dinosaurs that lit up at the touch of a button; or interactive video displays; or the crystal-clear graphics that now guide a child who wants to know.

Or take art: children, unlike many parents, are not fazed by modernism, nor liable to ask all the time what a piece of art is. They



Catching them young: children from Brooklands school in Blackheath, south London, taking an early interest in culture at the Tate

prefer bright colour and bold shape to the gloom of oil and gilt. Even gloomy pictures today are brighter than they used to be, thanks to better lighting and more imaginative display. Charging has also made a difference – exhibitions must now sparkle or die. Of course, charging an entrance fee acts as a hurdle and excludes many poorer

children from culture. Nor is it an invariable rule that what is charged for is more customer friendly (and child friendly) than what is not. That most delightful of museums for children, the Horniman in Dulwich, south London, with its aquarium, puppets and ethnic artefacts continues to be free.

But for the better off, the laws of

Thatcherite economics have worked in favour of a more accessible culture. It may be a cultural counter-revolution that made this year's Royal Ballet *Nutcracker Suite* so much more traditionalist than its predecessor, but the imperatives of the box office surely played their part.

Many cultural institutions now

run educational programmes (see listings, right). They are no longer dominated by crusty curators showing off to themselves, but led by enthusiasts who wish to communicate. Schools, even state schools with ever-scarce resources and ever-increased burdens on teacher time, continue miraculously to take advantage of the opportunities now

available. Of course, some people may question the desirability of these trends. The British are quite capable of feeling that something is wrong unless they and their children are suffering for their art, and the Kenneth Clarke school of backs-straight, class-in-rows, 3Rs and four-times-table education may, for all I know, strip the fun out of cultural education.

In the meantime, however, the rest of us should celebrate what we have: a rialto to Nintendo and the video which educates, entertains and introduces children to the joy of culture.

Expert tips for getting children hooked on art

THE technique for hooking your child on culture is the same for music and art – get them involved.

Polly Penrose, education officer at London's Tate Gallery, runs special tours and workshops for children, in common with many galleries around the country. The psychology behind her gallery walks for children aged four and over, can easily be adapted by parents for weekend outings.

"We keep things very interesting," says Polly. "By asking questions, playing some 'games', we get children looking hard, observing and thinking about what they see," she says.

At art galleries, one idea is to pick a theme – water, the weather, or a school project – then choose five or six examples from various artists to compare.

Then ask questions: what are the differences in the way the artists have painted, say, the weather? What do the children think is

going to happen next? What are they going to paint. Is it boring? Scary? Funny? Does it make them feel cold? How was the artist achieved that?

"Children these days are so used to seeing moving images that contemplating a stationary object is quite difficult. Never make it boring by just telling them things," says Polly.

KATY BRAVERY

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Registration office of Lam

Your guide to the week's viewing

SATURDAY

BBC1

6.30am Open University 7.25 News And Weather 8.30 Crystal Tops and Alastair 8.35 Wis. Bay 9.25 Grandstand 9.30 'Em' Baker 9.35 Thursday Night Live 12.12 Weather 12.15 Grandstand, including 12.20 and 4.00 Golf; first and second round highlights from the US Masters in Augusta 1.00 News 1.05 Football/Kricket preview 1.30 Eurosport 1.35 2.25, 3.35 and 3.35 Racing from Newmarket 1.35 and 3.35 Swimming: 3.30 Football half-times; 4.35 Final Score 5.10 News And Weather 5.20 Regional News And Sport 5.25 This Is On The Radio 5.30 News Sport And Weather 5.40 Coronation Street 10.30 Rowan Atkinson Live in Boston 11.25 Film: Uncommon Valor starring Gene Hackman and Patrick Swayze. Drama about a retired army crew of fighting veterans in Laos in search of his son who was officially listed as missing in action during the Vietnam war. 1.05 Weather

BBC2

6.45am Open University 3.00 Matchmaker 4.15 The Sky About 4.00 Film: What A Game! 4.15 (1982) starring Kenneth Connor and Sid James. Comedy set in a remote and haunted moorland mansion where relatives have gathered to hear the reading of a will 5.25 Late Movie 6.10 News Sport 6.25 What's On The Radio 6.30 News Sport And Weather 6.40 Coronation Street 10.30 Rowan Atkinson Live in Boston 11.25 Film: Uncommon Valor starring Gene Hackman and Patrick Swayze. Drama about a retired army crew of fighting veterans in Laos in search of his son who was officially listed as missing in action during the Vietnam war. 1.05 Weather

den 10.00 Speed Skating 11.00 Boxing 12.00 Saturday Alive 3.00 Diving: European Cups from Milan 4.00 International Motorsport 5.00 Tennis ATP Tour 9.00 Boxing 10.30 Tennis 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

12.00noon Rambo 12.30 Spiral Zone 1.00 Captain Power 1.30 The Smugglers 2.30 Spain Spain Holiday 2.35 Star Trek 3.00 The Road Three For The Road. A freelance photographer takes his sons with him on assignment across America 3.30 Bums and Allen 6.30 The Self-A-Vision Shopping Programme 2.00 Last Jukebox Music Videos 3.00 Close

MTV

7.00pm VI Rebecca De Ruvo 10.00 The Big Picture 10.30 US Top 20 Video Countdown 12.30 XPD 1.00 The Pulse 1.30 VJ Ray Cokes 4.00 Yol MTV Raps 5.00 Rock 6.00 Eurosport 6.30 Eurovision 8.00 European Top 20 8.00 Saturday Night Live 9.00 Party Zone 12.00 VI Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

5.10am Cubans 4.35 RTL und Harfes 7.00 Konfetti 8.15 Klack 9.05 News Kids On The Block 9.35 Peter Pan 10.00 Marvel Universe 11.35 Michel Vaillant 12.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 12.30 American Gladiators 1.35 Adam Vs. Evil 2.00 LA 2.05 Dr. Quinn 3.30 The Private Practice 4.00 Kult-Doku Superstars 4.45 Inside Bunte 6.15 Full House 7.15 Film: James Bond: Liebesgrüsse Aus Moskau (From Russia With Love) 8.00 The World Of Sports 8.30 The Empire's Answer 11.45 Film: Virgin Witch 1.15 Münchener Nachrichten 1.45 Threepole 3.10 Film: Virgin Witch 4.35 Captain Power 5.00 Peter Pan 5.25 Die Sonnenkids 5.30 News Kids On The Block 5.55 Yogi Bar

SCREENSPORT

6.30am Warsteiner Soft Magazine 7.00 Dutch Open Bowling Masters 8.00 DTM German Touring Cars 9.00 World League Of US Football: Birmingham Final 10.00 Formula 1 11.30 NBA Action 12.00 Formula 1 12.30 Formula 1 13.00 NBA Basketball 1991/92 1.00 Argentina Soccer 1991/92 2.00 Argentina Masters 1992 1.00 Indy Car World Series 1992 5.00 Powersports International 6.00 Gillette World Sports Special 6.30 Showbiz 7.00 Formula 1 7.30 Formula 1 8.00 Formula 1 8.30 Formula 1 9.00 NBA Action 10.00 Mastermind 10.40 The Money Programme 11.20 World Business Report 11.35 Close

WORLD SERVICE TV

9.00am Fingerman 9.15 Bridget And Badger 9.30 Chucklevision 9.50 Blue Peter 10.00 The Big Picture 10.30 The Lowdown 11.10 Top Of The Pops 1.00 Tomorrow's World 12.10 Top Gear 12.40 Natural World 1.30 Gardeners' World 2.00 Rosemary Conley 2.25 Beauvoir 2.50 100 Per Cent 3.40 Dr Who 4.05 Standing Room Only 4.40 World At War 5.00 The Big Picture 5.20 London 5.50 BBC Sports Review 5.35 The Collectors 5.50 Jim'll Fix It 6.25 Rough Guide To The World's Journeys 7.10 Only Fools And Horses 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 Bruce's Guest Night 9.30 Timewatch 10.20 Young Musican Of The Year 11.00 Close

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.00 Simon In The Land Of Fantasy 7.30 The Land Of Fantasy 8.00 The Land Of Fantasy 8.30 Life 8.00 Kaboodle 9.30 Galaxy High School 9.00 Captain N 10.00 Prince Valiant 11.00 The New Adventures Of Her-Me 12.00 Kids' Zone 12.30 The Land Of Fantasy 13.00 Galaxy High School 14.00 Captain N 15.00 Prince Valiant 16.00 The Care Bears Family 4.00 Galaxy High School 5.00 Runaway Ralph 6.00 Kaboodle 7.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.30 Our World 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Newsline 12.00 Weekend 12.30 Those Were The Days 1.30 Holiday Destinations 2.30 Fashion 2.30 The Days 3.00 Newsline 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 Newsline 4.00 Weekend

T5

6.00am French Television News 6.20 Corps Accord 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Œil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20

7.00pm Eurosport 8.00 Eurovision 8.30 French Television News And Weather 8.30 A Nous Les Beaux Dimanches 9.30 Champion D'Orthographe 11.30 French Television News 12.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Discover The World 4.30 World Of Herbs 5.00 Great Lakes 6.00 Journey Into History 6.30 The Amateur Naturalist 7.00 Sunday Specials 7.30 The Great Outdoors 7.30 The Days 8.00 The Great Outdoors 8.30 Holiday Destinations 8.30 Newsline 9.00 Travel Destinations 9.30 Our World 9.30 Weekend 10.00 The Days 11.00 Holiday Destinations 11.30 Holiday Destinations 12.00 Newsline 12.30 Our World 13.00 Travel Destinations 14.00 Those Were The Days 15.00 Newsline 16.00 The Great Outdoors 16.30 Sunday Specials 17.00 Sunday Specials 18.00 Sunday Specials 19.00 Sunday Specials 20.00 Sunday Specials 21.00 Sunday Specials 22.00 Sunday Specials 23.00 Sunday Specials 24.00 Sunday Specials 25.00 Sunday Specials 26.00 Sunday Specials 27.00 Sunday Specials 28.00 Sunday Specials 29.00 Sunday Specials 30.00 Sunday Specials 31.00 Sunday Specials 32.00 Sunday Specials 33.00 Sunday Specials 34.00 Sunday Specials 35.00 Sunday Specials 36.00 Sunday Specials 37.00 Sunday Specials 38.00 Sunday Specials 39.00 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THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MONEY

Profile

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of the De Beers companies, has had one business failure, his inability to deliver Consolidated Gold Fields to Harry Oppenheimer, his foreunner. Rejecting claims that the Cons-Gold bid was a failure, his objective is to build an international natural resources business..... Page 43



Post election

The Conservatives' election victory might not automatically mean mortgage cuts for borrowers, even if the expected rate cut comes in the next few weeks, lenders said yesterday..... Page 45

Lid on bonds

National Provident Institution is to limit sales of with-profits bonds to £200 million this year amid increasing concern that high sales of bonds put strains on reserves..... Page 46



Letters

Page 48

Tax havens

Offshore tax havens are groaning with money from investors trying to shelter their money from the possibility of high Labour tax rates. William Ramsay, marketing director at Rothschild, says increasing sums are flowing into the company's currency funds from UK investors. Such roll up money funds have proved the most popular. They are a legitimate way of controlling when tax is paid because there is no liability until the fund is sold..... Page 46



Paying more

Some homeowners applying for further advances are finding that falling properties values mean they have to pay hundreds of pounds in mortgage indemnity premiums..... Page 47

Receiving less

Investors who rely on income from unit trusts could have it cut because of a rule that the costs of running the fund must be deducted from fund income fund not from capital growth..... Page 47



Black watch

An insurance company that underwrites insurance for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is pulling out of the market, as schemes' effectiveness is called into question..... Page 47

Conservative win adds £20bn to share values and brokers predict more to come

Index soars 136 points as City celebrates

BY MICHAEL CLARK AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE stock market celebrated the Conservative election win in style, with share prices posting their second biggest one-day rise as more than £20 billion was added to the value of publicly quoted companies. Despite heavy volumes, analysts said the market was still looking cheap, and could rise higher.

Government securities also sported impressive gains on the back of a strong performance by the pound, with prices at the longer end stretching to £4.

Most business leaders were pleased by the election outcome, but there was little of the euphoria displayed by the City. Expressions of satisfaction were accompanied by renewed appeals for lower interest rates.

City dealers, many of whom had traded through the night as the election results poured in, were jubilant and saying the equity market had further to run.

The FT-SE 100 index soared 136.2 points to 2,572.6, having started the day in unofficial trading with a rise of 163 points, helped by overnight rallies in New York and Tokyo. This followed the heavy falls of the past few days. However, the market is still 2.6 per cent short of its close on Budget day.

Most of the gains in the index had been achieved overnight as overseas and private investors began punting on the outcome of the elec-

tion. It was the utilities, particularly the water and electricity companies, that led the market higher, with gains of up to 20 per cent in some cases. The utilities had been badly depressed in the run-up to polling day by Labour party threats to re-nationalise.

Other privatisation issues also enjoyed support, with BT climbing 21p to 335p and the party paid by almost one-fifth to 119p, after touching 128p. The party paid were the heaviest traded shares, with 56 million changing hands.

Volume was heavy. By the close of business, 1.3 billion shares had been traded, one of the busiest sessions since the crash of 1987. Like, the futures market, traded

650,000 contracts, 60 per cent higher than the previous daily record.

BZW is sticking with its year-end target for the FT-SE 100 index of 2,750 and does not expect interest rates to drop much below 10 per cent before the year-end.

Mark Tinker, equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is still forecasting a year-end target of 3,000 for the index, along with the rival County NatWest WoodMac.

Peter Meinertzhagen, chairman of Hoare Govett, the broker, is more cautious about short-term prospects. He said there was a lot going on behind the scenes, such as corporate fund raising, government debt and the world economic problems.

Lower interest rates were a universal plea from industrialists, although Sir Allen Sheppard, of Grand Metropolitan, cautioned against premature cuts.

Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, hailed the Conservative win as a "victory for good old fashioned common sense."

But he urged the government to "listen a bit more to retailers and businessmen and not depend on the academics."

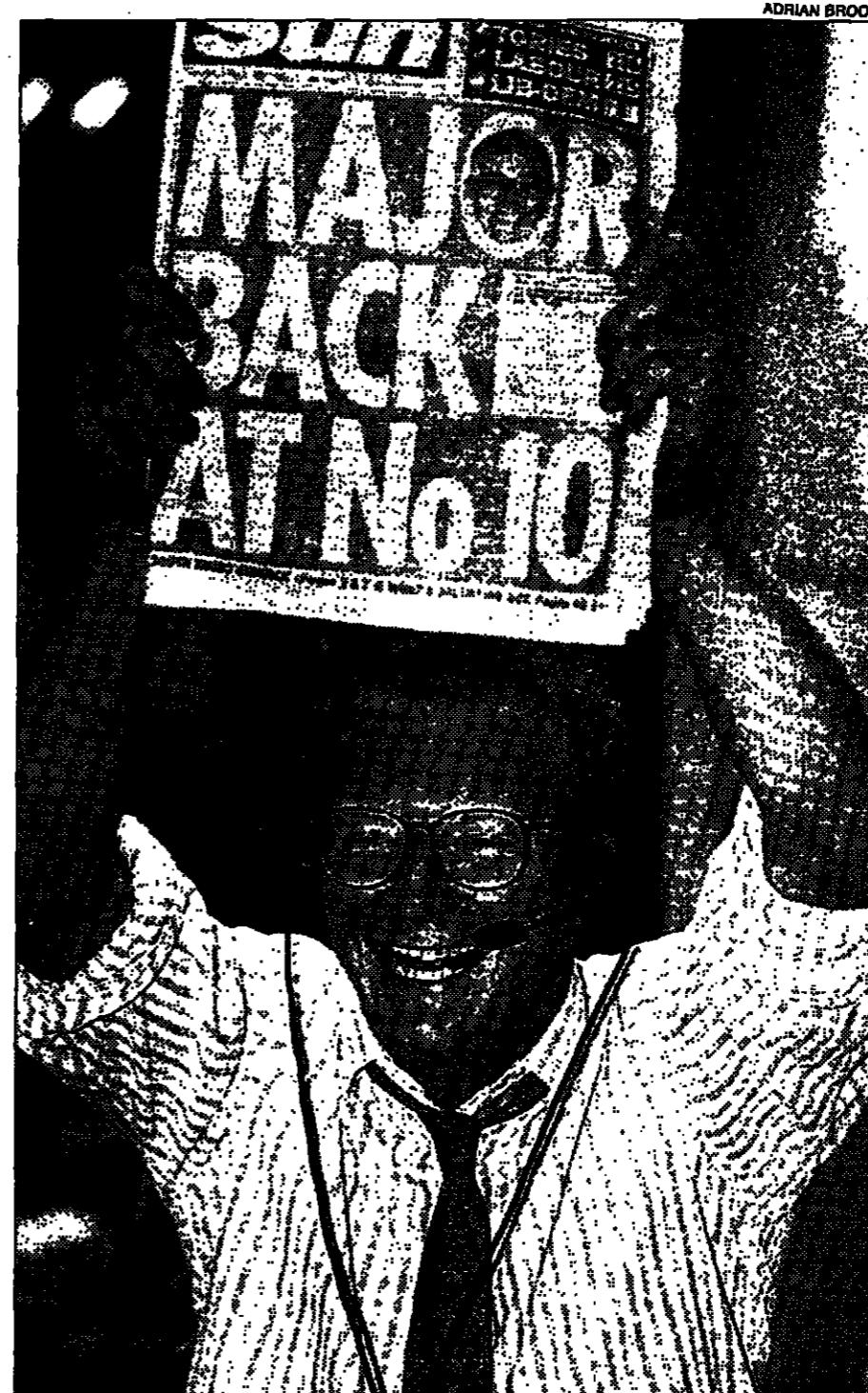
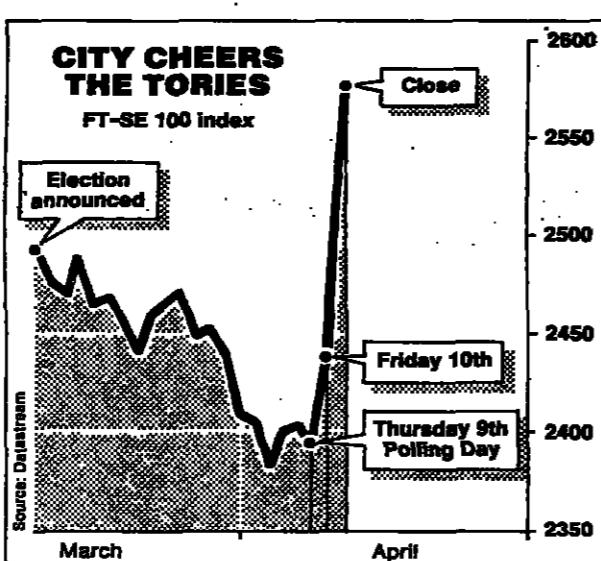
Sir John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the outcome was the best business could have wished for.

"It removes any uncertainty and allows business to build on the success of the past decade and underscores the importance of continuing to keep inflation under control."

The largest building societies were divided yesterday on whether a bank base rate cut would bring about an immediate mortgage rate reduction. The Halifax said it would want to reduce the mortgage rate at the first opportunity if the base rate was realistic and sustainable.

Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive of the Nationwide, said competition from National Savings would make it harder for lenders to cut mortgage rates if base rates fell by only 0.5 per cent.

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Kinnock to quit, page 1
Election, 92, pages 2-8,
Leading articles, and
Letters, page 17
City and industry, page 42



Vote of confidence: Mark Nixon spreads the news to Smith New Court dealers

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7725 (+0.0253)
German mark
2.8803 (+0.0250)
Exchange index
91.2 (91.9)
Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2001.1 (+115.4)
FT-SE 100
2572.6 (+136.2)
New York Dow Jones
3254.47 (+29.51)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17850.66 (+1252.51)

INTEREST RATES

London: 101.1%
3-month interbank 104%-104.1%
3-month discount 104.5%-104.9%
US: Prime Rate 6.12%
Federal Funds 3.12%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.67-3.65%
30-year bonds 101.2a-101.3a*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.7725
£ DM2.8803
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Optimism returns over pick-up in consumer spending

BRITAIN'S business leaders expressed quiet satisfaction at the return of a Conservative government — and the hope that the way was now clear for a wide-ranging reform in the role of the trade and industry department.

Peter Morgan, head of the Institute of Directors, said the election of a "centre-right" government with a clear majority would remove uncertainty that had been impeding economic take-off.

Sir John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was "of all the possible outcomes... the best possible result for British business."

Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, and a forthright Conservative supporter, said John Major, the prime minister, was well placed to provide leadership in resolving two key international business issues. He should press hard to resolve the long-running dispute over a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a measure vital to the world's prosperity, and should also use Britain's presidency of the European Community, which begins on July 1, to modify the Community's social policies.

Industrialists also made renewed and heart-felt calls for a cut in interest rates.

There was widespread optimism that, with the election out of the way, a quick pick-up in consumer confidence will occur, accompanied by a modest rise in spending. That would allow industry scope to capitalise on the stirrings of a recovery evident in recent business surveys and reports from companies. But there was a consensus that recovery will be a slow affair, and job losses will continue.

Trade union leaders were gloomy over the outcome. Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said it was "a great disappointment to everyone who believed our best chance of tackling the serious problems facing our country was through the election of a government committed to a social partnership between government, business and unions."

Both business and trade unions are looking to government to establish a new, more constructive relationship with industry. Hopes are high that Mr Major, will seize his opportunity to recast the trade and industry department as a

INDUSTRY

new super-ministry with a more positive role in supporting industry, assisting training and promoting exports.

Graham Mackenzie, president of the Engineering Employers Federation, said:

"Changes have to be made in the DTI if industry's confidence in it is to be restored. It has become moribund. It has lost its sense of direction."

Union leaders, for their part, will also be looking for reform within the Labour party. Trade unions have funded much of Labour's campaign, and are sorely disappointed at being denied the "social partnership" with business they sought.

Bill Morris, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said his union would "play a full part in the forthcoming debate as to how to ensure the Tories are removed at the next available opportunity."

Terry Maher, the chairman and chief executive of Pentos, the bookseller, and a long-standing Liberal Democrat, said the election had emphasised the need for electoral reform. "It is not the outcome I would have liked, but I think the most important outcome is that there is going to be stable government for a period of time."

Business leaders believe improved confidence will take months to make its effects felt across the whole economy, and industrialists, consumers

and government alike have been chastened by the experience of the past five years. "I think there will be a very quick upturn in business confidence," said Sir John Banham, "but I don't think we will be going back to the boom conditions of 1988." Mr Morgan thought middle and high income consumers, freed from the threat of large tax increases, might spend with "gusto".

Even so, industry looked forward to steady and sustainable growth. "Given what the Tories learned about boom and bust, I think they have learned some economic management lessons," Mr Morgan said. Industrialists believe productivity growth in British industry has resumed, exports will become more competitive against European rivals, and Britain's attractions for inward investment have been underpinned.

Because of the slump, industrial capacity is adequate. There has been concern over falling investment. But Mr Mackenzie said research and development spending has been maintained through the recession, and he believed companies would now have confidence that steadier demand and better cash flow would enable them to invest in quality improvements.

Even so, it will be some time before any upturn can halt the rate of job losses, now running at 35,000 a month.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

Jobs boost urged in wake of recession

SMALL business leaders are hoping that the return of a Conservative government will lead to the creation of many new jobs.

Britain's 5 million small businesses are looking for investment incentives in the hope of repeating their performance in the wake of the last recession. Between 1985 and 1989, thrusting smaller enterprises created a million extra jobs.

Stan Mendham, head of the Forum of Private Business, said: "There is no reason why small businesses should not create just as many new jobs again provided the government removes some of the road blocks."

The uniform business rate, late payment of debts and

red tape affecting small firms are issues on which the forum and other small business pressure groups want further action, while acknowledging measures taken by the previous Conservative government.

The difficulty of raising cash to pay for expansion that might be needed as recession wanes and growth returns worries many small firms. Banks, their biggest single source of cash, continue to maintain a tough attitude towards lending.

The Federation of Small Business hopes a government with a smaller majority will "listen that much harder to the small business community". It urges the setting up of a separate source of

rate difficulties. The CBI has been keen on the creation of local investment companies and would like to see a mechanism similar to the Business Expansion Scheme, now to be phased out.

This, while avoiding RES's problems with property, would continue to offer investment help to small businesses.

The new government could lend a sympathetic ear on investment problems because the previous administration had begun wrestling with them.

Support was given to pilot experiments by local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) to encourage the creation of pools of local investors. It could build on work

by the local investment networking company (Linc) organisation which encourages regional spreads of local enterprise agencies to act as marriage bureaux, bringing together individual investors and small businesses in need of cash in return for equity.

The CBI has been particularly concerned that TECs should be adequately funded and that the enterprise initiative, for smaller companies, should be continued in some form by the trade and industry department.

The Federation of Small Business has urged that tax incentives should be given to entrepreneurs investing in their businesses.

DEREK HARRIS

RIGHTS ISSUES

RECENT ISSUES	
Amesite Smaller Units (500)	464 +10
Amesite Group (100)	116 +27
Bell & Howells (100)	116 +27
Brent Walker (100)	116 +27
Brown & Root (125)	123 +2
CPI (100)	123 +2
CU Environmental (98)	98 +1
CU Environmental Wm (24)	24 +1
Capital Industries (P)	49 +1
Demag (100)	101 +1
de Zoet (100)	101 +1
Devonshire (100)	121 +1
Dixons (100)	111 +1
Elan America Inc & Ap (100)	111 +1
M & G Rover (100)	101 +1
M & G Rover Im Cap (100)	101 +1

Property firm gains ground

Percy Bilton, the property investor and developer, estimates net asset value at 731p a share at December 31, compared with 720p at the end of 1990, based on a partial revaluation showing a portfolio value of £341.49 million.

Pre-tax profits for 1991 were £17.47 million (£16.34 million) and earnings rose to 27.7p (25.8p). A final dividend of 12.33p (12.04p) makes 18p (17.44p).

Star losses cut

Losses at Star Computer Group were reduced from £253,000 before tax to £240,000 in the half-year to December 31, leaving a loss of 3.5p a share, against a 3.7p loss last time. There is again no dividend. The company said improved trading made a return to profit likely.

Jacks in red

William Jacks, the motor dealer, said Budget measures to stimulate the car market had yet to make an impact. The company made pre-tax losses of £827,000 in 1991, against losses of £831,000 last time. There is again no dividend.

Property sale

Mervale Moore, a property group, has sold a mixed shop and office block in Reading, Berkshire, for £4.5 million. The building consists of 20,000 sq ft of office space and two shops.

Elys drops

Pre-tax profits at Elys (Wimbledon), the London department store, fell 24 per cent to £879,000 for the year to end-February. An unchanged 14.5p final dividend makes a same-again total of 16p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The dramatic fall of the Tokyo stock market — despite Friday's rally — puts the prospect for economic recovery in Britain and the US in jeopardy. Japan's big banks may be forced to sell their massive worldwide holdings. Can the West survive Japan's panic?

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

WHAT WILL MARKETS DO POST-ELECTION?

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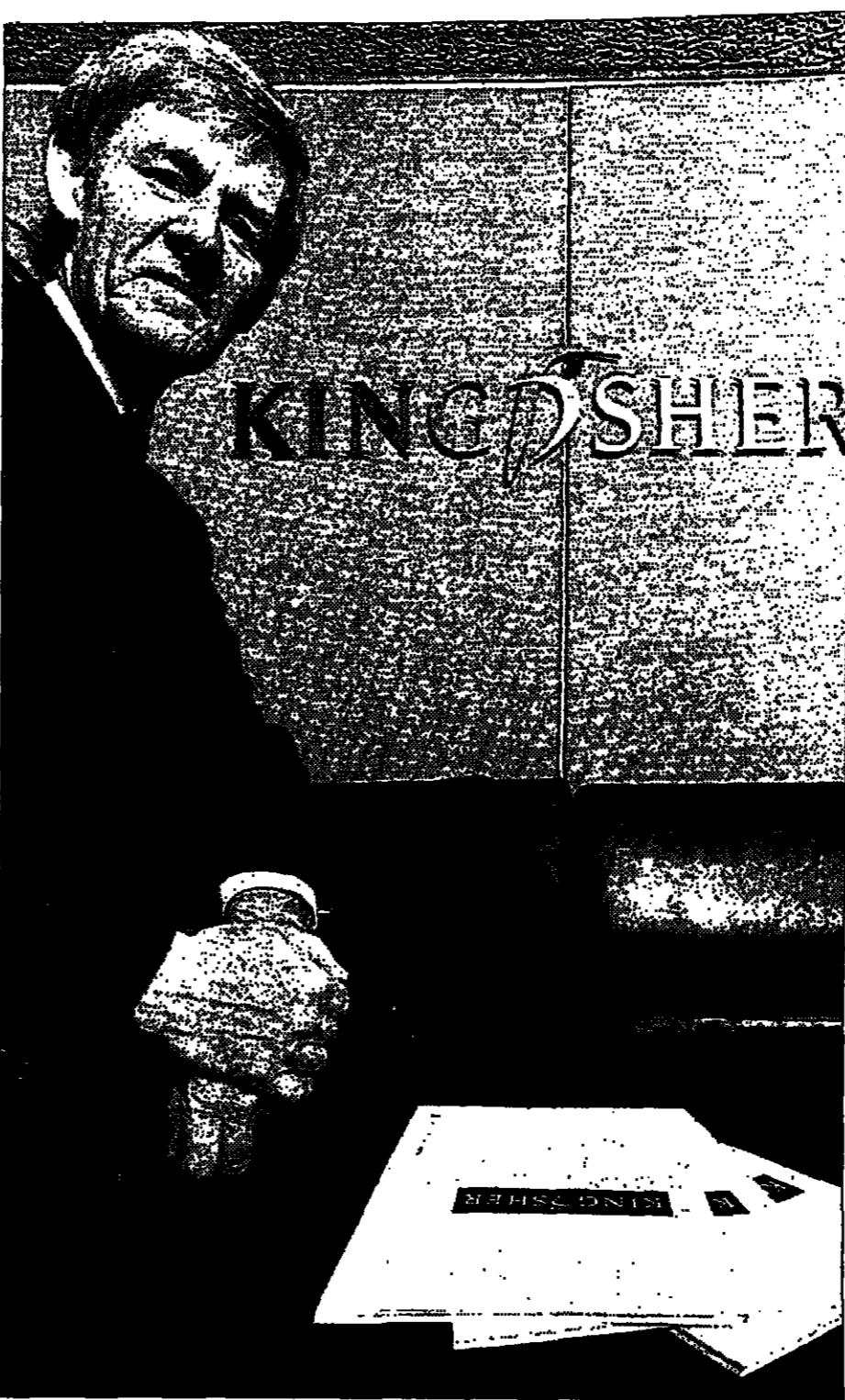
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SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

The FTSE 100 index ended up 136.2 at 2,572.6, which is the biggest closing rise since the 142.2 point advance of October 21, 1987 — the Wednesday after the Black Monday crash. The FT index of 30 shares advanced 115.4 to 2,001.1. Volume, boosted by a programme



Stores back in fashion: Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman of Kingfisher

SMALL BUSINESSES

bank funding for small, growing businesses. Firms that were expanding and providing additional jobs would qualify for loans. These, the federation suggests, should be offered on soft terms, pitched at the level of bank base rates.

The Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council is speeding up the activities of a working group that is assessing the "financing gap" afflicting small businesses. It expects to put forward proposals to ameliorate

rate difficulties. The CBI has been keen on the creation of local investment companies and would like to see a mechanism similar to the Business Expansion Scheme, now to be phased out.

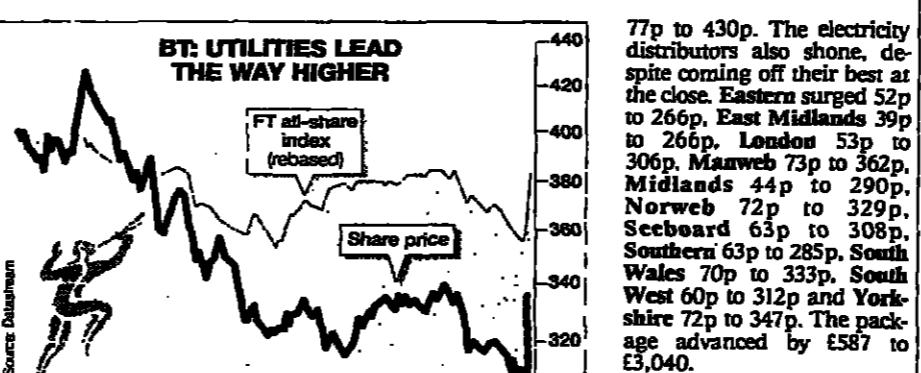
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Support was given to pilot experiments by local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) to encourage the creation of pools of local investors. It could build on work

STOCK MARKET

Screens turn blue as shares climb to second largest rise



trade, swelled to a hefty 1.35 billion shares.

Talk of a possible base rate cut helped gulls to gains of up to £1. The government took advantage of the buoyant conditions to continue its funding programme by issuing over £1.6 billion of new stock and selling out existing taps. In an unprecedented

move, the Bank of England had issued new gulls during the night.

The latest United Kingdom inflation figures showed a decline in year-on-year inflation to 4 per cent in March, against 4.1 per cent in February, although the fall was slightly short of market expectations. Equity strategists said that a finish to the elec-

tronics market was likely to provide a sharp boost to the market over the next few months. "We are very positive, as everybody is," said Mark Tinker, equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson.

Utilities and privatisation stocks roared ahead, enjoying some of the best advances, although there was some

profit-taking before the end.

The water shares gushed forward, adding to Thursday's gains. Anglian jumped 80p to 410p, Northumbrian 76p to 410p, Severn Trent 78p to 410p, Southern 70p to 384p, South West 55p to 395p, Thames 72p to 416p, Welsh 74p to 430p, Wessex 74p to 456p and Yorkshire 101p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

PHILIP PANGALOS

Utilities lead big spending spree as poll euphoria floods market

CITY VIEW

rate fears, and should recover, he said.

Overseas earners. These might have fared better under Labour when sterling would have wobbled on devaluation fears, and profits would have risen on translation. But those heavily dependent on overseas profits say the problem of advance corporation tax, to which Norman Lamont made reference in his Budget remains.

Conglomerates. Fears that Labour would have checked aggressive acquisitions have evaporated. — of greater significance than temporary benefits from currency movements and the minimum wage threat has gone, which saw BET rise from 115p to 126p. And anything that is good for the British economy is good for Hanson.

Stores. These are back in fashion, though big-ticket groups such as Dixons will have the advantage over Kingfisher, or the food retailers, where Labour's tax shake-up was expected to be felt in the cash tills.

Newspaper groups. Now relieved of the bogey of competition investigations, were generally stronger. St Ives, the specialist printer, rose 11p to 260p.

Finance. Analysts see better times for merchant banks, consistent underperformers in the run-up to the election on fears that Labour would restrict corporate activity, cutting corporate finance fees. SG Warburg, one of the biggest players, is seen as the main beneficiary. Clearing banks will receive less benefit, said Hoare Govett of Bryan Crossley, but favours householders with decent landbanks, strong balance sheets and good management, such as Persimmon, up 39p at 284p. At Kleinwort, Jamie Stevenson likes Persimmon, Wilson Connolly and Manley. The alternative view of those who took profits yesterday is that these prices are too good to resist. Nigel Hawkins at Hoare Govett thinks Manweb, a star performer since the flotation, a sell as he does with Yorkshire, but likes Northern and Southern and takes a similar view on water shares, selling Wessex and Yorkshire but keen on Severn Trent and Welsh.

Builders. Contractors' order books remain in the doldrums, but housebuilders will be helped by the Tory win. Andrew Melrose at Nomura is bearish on contractors, assuming construction output will not rise until 1994, but favours householders with decent landbanks, strong balance sheets and good management, such as Persimmon, up 39p at 284p. At Kleinwort, Jamie Stevenson likes Persimmon, Wilson Connolly and Manley.

Property. Recovery largely depends on interest rates, said Michael Prew of Pamire Gordon. British Land, one of the most highly geared of the quality stocks, has been oversold on interest

rate rises. Those with big exposure to mortgage indemnity, such as Sun Alliance, will gain from the removal of the threat of more repossession, said Kevin Phillips of Kleinwort Benson.

WORLD MARKETS

Dow makes strong early advance

New York — Blue chips slipped in the late morning after prices in the bond market recovered most of their losses. The Dow Jones industrial average reached 3,257, up 32.40 points, after having been as high as 3,263.

Analysts said that shares were bolstered by Thursday's credit easing by the Federal Reserve and sharp rallies in London and Tokyo. But optimism was tempered by a 0.5 per cent rise in consumer prices in March, which had knocked the

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:					
Abbey National	255p (+25p)	Union Discount	136p (+13p)	Delta	453p (+18p)
Santander	327p (+23p)	SG Warburg	538p (+54p)	Shearley	478p (+29p)
Cates Allen	328p (+18p)	Allied Lyons	530p (+48p)	C Wilson	180p (+16p)
Hambros	288p (+19p)	Bass	588p (+51p)	G Wimpey	168p (+17p)
Kleinwort Benson	288p (+19p)	Grand Met	943p (+56p)	Leigh	253p (+13p)
Lloyds	396p (+37p)	Whitbread 'A'	431p (+44p)	Rentokil	358p (+33p)
Nat West	311p (+27p)	PNC Group	573p (+19p)		
		Rugby Group	204p (+23p)		

Closing Prices .. Page 49

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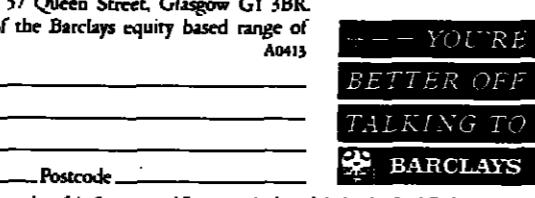
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- LETTERS 48

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

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Investors might come to very different decisions if they saw the literature sent to their brokers by life companies. They might also gain the impression that brokers are more interested in the commission they will earn than any other feature of an investment.

Two brochures sent by National Provident Institution to 19,000 brokers recently have no other details on the covers than information about improved commission for the sale of the company's personal equity plans and for encouraging people to switch out of their company pension schemes.

They are not alone in emphasising the payout to brokers. But in its wisdom the Securities and Investments Board does not feel that the same information is relevant to people who invest.

"Earn yourself up to £1,380 every time you sell a Pep Taxbeater," says NPI on the cover of its brochure. Inside it goes on: "For you: increased commission

plus full marketing support" and explains that to get the payout the broker had to sign clients for the maximum £6,000 investment before April 6 and a plan costing £500 a month before April 24.

The second brochure sells itself with the slogan "Commission increased by 5 per cent on transfers up to April 30". Inside it explains that this means brokers selling pension transfers will get 135 per cent of the old Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation's maximum commission rate for sending in application forms by the cut-off date.

The brochures were sent to Weekend Money by a broker who is unhappy at the way the investment industry is selling the commission rate to the salesman ahead of the product details.

Next month SIB plans to make rules at its board meeting on how

much is told to investors. Brokers and life companies have stressed to the board that commission is not important. They say that there is no reason why clients should be told what the broker will get in cash terms, or in a way that can be compared from one company to the next.

It is funny, therefore, to see that industry members wanting to boost their market share spell out the commission to the professionals in such a clear way.

Maybe they are trying to tell us something. While the paying public can understand the full

impact in year one on their investment of all expenses, including commission, by looking at surrender values and the reduction in the projected final payout, brokers cannot follow such complicated calculations. They need the amount they are going to get spelled out simply.

They can then easily calculate who will pay them most and select the appropriate client brochure extolling the investment performance virtues for the next investor.

That may seem cynical, but NPI says that its pension transfers

are running at "over 10 per cent higher" since the mailings were sent to the brokers.

Costly service

Customers from other banks are being blamed for the long queues in Barclays branches. So pleasant are its facilities that customers of rivals are attracted in and clog up the counters, says the bank.

They already pay £2 for this immense privilege, but from June, the price of entering the bank and cashing a cheque from another bank will increase to £5. This is more than it costs to go to the cinema in most of the country, and a great deal less pleasant.

John Cheese, Barclays' personal sector marketing director, cannot seriously expect his customers to believe that people are voluntarily

paying £2 to use the bank's polished counters and centralised queuing systems in preference to their own.

People who use Barclays to cash cheques on accounts held at other banks do so because they are stranded in a High Street that has neither a branch of their bank nor a cash dispenser that will take their card.

Their numbers can only be tiny, as Barclays' customers will find out when they continue to queue for five to ten minutes every time they want to transact business after June. Then will they know to blame Barclays for reducing staff.

On those occasions when an outside customer does try to get cash over a Barclays counter, the queues could lengthen. It will surely take some time for the staff to try to justify the £5 charge.

It is unlikely to win any customers from those other banks, either, however palatial the surroundings. They will be too fearful of its tariffs for other services if it can charge £5 for a wait in a bank queue.



Back on-line: Dealers were in bullish mood as a result of the decisive election result

Savers feel pinch as fears of base rate rise vanish

BY SARA MCCONNELL

YESTERDAY'S Conservative victory removed any immediate prospect of a rise in bank base rates, but as lenders and borrowers confidently predicted an upturn in the housing market, some savers were reminded that they are the losers if rates fall.

Scarborough building society was poised to offer savers with more than £10,000 in a Premier Fix account an extra 1 per cent interest gross, raising the rate to 12.5 per cent gross. Yesterday morning, the enhanced rate was withdrawn as the society believed there was no longer any danger of an immediate rate rise.

John Carrier, the society's deputy chief executive, said: "It was generally felt that there may have been a rate rise under Labour, but now there is a possibility that the rate will come down, and we wouldn't want to be embarrassed. If we had gone ahead we may have had to close it early."

The rate of 11.5 per cent gross is guaranteed on all balances until August 1, when it will roll over to a penalty-free instant access account, initially paying a variable rate equivalent to the society's Super Saver account which is paying a base rate of 9 per cent gross.

If there is a base rate cut,

other building societies are acutely aware that they will have to remain competitive, particularly against National Savings. They will have to balance the need to keep attracting savings, by keeping rates high, with the need to cut mortgage rates to stimulate the housing market.

The Halifax, the largest society, said that if it cut mortgage rates it would have to cut savers' rates as well, but said: "We are conscious that we need to be competitive."

Tim Melville-Ross, chief ex-

ecutive of Nationwide, the second largest society, said: "We are finding it difficult on the savings side, especially with National Savings having to contribute to such a large public sector borrowing requirement."

National Savings is offering competitive rates on investments such as 36th Issue Savings Certificates, where investors can lock into a gross rate of 8.5 per cent if they hold the certificates for five years. This rate could look increasingly tempting if

The Halifax said: "If there

is a realistic and sustainable reduction in the base, it is possible that the Halifax would want to reduce the mortgage rate at the first reasonable opportunity."

Whether or not there is a base rate cut, lenders predict that activity in the housing market will increase significantly now that electoral uncertainty has passed.

The Halifax welcomed the news of a decisive result, saying: "The end of uncertainty is good news for the housing market. Confidence should now return with more house sales and a recovery in prices."

The Halifax's latest monthly price index, out yesterday, showed that prices rose by just 0.1 per cent in March. They fell 5 per cent over the year to March 1992, compared with a fall of 4.3 per cent over the year to February 1992.

Lenders are expecting a recovery in terms of activity rather than prices, which are not thought likely to turn up significantly until the end of the year. Discounts for first-time buyers, combined with good weather, are expected to see potential purchasers turning out over the Easter break in greater numbers than at any time since the election was called in March.

National Savings will look increasingly tempting if

led by the Abbey National, with no corresponding base rate cut, meant that a half-point base rate cut now was effectively discounted, Mr Melville-Ross said.

However, other lenders ap-

peared to want to move on

mortgage rates, even if there

was only a half-point cut. The

Abbey National, the second

largest lender, said: "If there

were to be a base rate cut we

would consider cutting mort-

gage rates, even if it was only a half point."

The Halifax said: "If there

well be wrong. Over the last ten years the average variable mortgage rate has been 12.7 per cent, so anyone locking themselves in now could save a lot of money."

Backing out of a fixed-rate mortgage could also be costly, as lenders will not normally refund upfront administration fees and could charge redemption penalties.

The Abbey National, whose fixed rate is 10.99 per cent until September 1996, will not refund the £180 administration fee if borrowers retreat before completion. People who back out on completion will forfeit 120 days' interest.

The Abbey said it made these charges because it had already had to pay to secure the money at the fixed rate.

The Nationwide said that it would not refund its administration fee if the valuation had already been carried out. There would be no redemption penalty to pay unless the borrower had completed.

Lenders do not expect borrowers with fixed-rate mortgages to renege on them, however, as they knew the risk they were taking on when they applied for the loan.

Turnround in fixed mortgage terms

LENTERS continued to withdraw fixed-rate mortgages this week, as borrowers, fearing a rise in mortgage rates under a Labour or hung parliament, locked themselves into rates—and used up all available funds (Sara McConnell writes).

Some of these could now be replaced by lower rates after yesterday's Conservative victory, if lenders can borrow money more cheaply on the money markets. This would reverse the trend of the last few weeks, when lenders, including the Halifax and Abbey National, the two largest, were forced to withdraw fixed rates and bring in higher ones.

Money market rates fell back yesterday, bringing the cost of three and five-year money down to their levels of two or three weeks ago, after shooting up earlier this week. Ian Darby, marketing manager at John Charcol, said money market rates could allow lenders to set fixed rates at around 10.5 per cent. Without the confirmation of yesterday's election result, the rate for relaunched fixed rates would definitely have been 11 per cent.

John Charcol withdrew its rate of 9.95 per cent fixed for ten years on Wednes-

day after all the funds were used up. It is waiting to see how the money markets react after the election before arranging another tranche of money.

Cheltenham & Gloucester withdrew its five-year fixed-rate mortgage at 10.6 per cent at 5 pm on election day, because the funds had all been allocated. There was tremendous demand for it, and it went very quickly, said the C&G. It plans to have a new fixed-rate loan on offer next week. Details have yet to be negotiated. "It may be over a shorter term," said Britain's sixth largest society.

Last summer, when it replaced a fixed-rate mortgage offer with one at a lower rate after markets moved, the society allowed all the applicants for the more expensive loans to transfer automatically to the new one.

If base rates fall half a point to 10 per cent, the variable mortgage rate will probably follow, giving a standard variable rate of 10.49 per cent to borrowers with no discounts. Borrowers who have arranged fixed-rate mortgages may feel they could get a better deal by reverting to a variable rate, particularly if there are promises of further cuts. They could

well be wrong. Over the last ten years the average variable mortgage rate has been 12.7 per cent, so anyone locking themselves in now could save a lot of money.

Backing out of a fixed-rate mortgage could also be costly, as lenders will not normally refund upfront administration fees and could charge redemption penalties.

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46 WEEKEND MONEY

Roll up, roll up for an offshore tax-saving deal

BY RUPERT BRUCE

OVER the last few weeks increasing sums of money have trickled into Britain's offshore tax havens as the tax conscious have reacted fearfully to the threat of high Labour tax rates.

Most of the money is flowing into "roll-up" money funds or offshore bank accounts. Both are legitimate vehicles for minimising a high earner's tax bill, but are also open to abuse from those who do not disclose their income and capital gains.

William Ramsay, marketing director of Rothschild Asset Management, whose Guernsey-based \$1.1 billion "roll-up" fund, the Old Court International Reserves, is the biggest of its kind, reports increasing sums flowing in from UK investors. But he added, that the Rothschild fund is marketed throughout the world and "in the context of the whole, the increase is not that big".

For all but the very wealthy who can afford the best tax advice, money funds and offshore bank accounts are the only widely available and legitimate offshore tax-planning devices. When used within the law they simply give investors some control over when their tax is paid.

In the case of "roll-up" funds, income is reinvested

and does not become liable for income tax until the fund is sold. By that time the investor might have retired and be in a lower tax bracket or even have emigrated.

Most "roll-up" funds have a large number of investment options. The Fidelity accumulating fund has 15 currency sub-funds, ranging from the sterling fund, which has a yield of 9.5 per cent after charges to the euro fund with a yield of 9.3 per cent. Other managers offer bond funds, managed currency funds and equity funds.

Often paired with the "roll-up" funds are the much less popular "distributor" funds. They are identical except that they regularly pay income. They are attractive for either the person who has no tax liability and wants income gross of tax, such as a housewife, or a wealthy investor in the top tax bracket who wants to defer his income tax until the end of the tax year. They can also establish a useful loss to set against capital gains.

Offshore bank accounts have a similar appeal for those who want to defer tax until the end of the year as they pay income gross, unlike UK accounts which pay net.

One of the Leeds Overseas' most popular accounts pays interest on March 31, just

before the end of the tax year. The rates paid by the Leeds to UK residents on its most popular three-month notice account range between 8.45 per cent and 10.55 per cent.

For those living and working abroad who are not liable to UK tax, offshore investments have wider uses. David Brewer, partner and head of financial services at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte in Jersey, said: "What the offshore centre sells them is stability. They want sterling because they are one day going to come back and the UK is their home. Often these are people working in Africa, the Middle East, or the Far East. They are nervous about investing in banks of their location and they trust the British offshore locations."

But investing in the offshore centres around Britain has its hazards. Bank accounts are not protected by the UK's Deposit Protection Scheme. And getting probate, that is proving a will, for inheritance tax purposes can prove expensive.

For those who do not respect the tax laws there are even greater dangers, but there are also great opportunities. Neither money managers nor bankers give information to the Inland Revenue. It is therefore up to



Flowing in: William Ramsay sees an increase

investors to declare any tax and they may pay penalties if they do not do so.

An advertisement for the Leeds Overseas recently running in the national newspapers spelt this out. Headed: A swing to the Isle of Man before polling day is likely to result in substantial gains, it stated that interest was paid gross, that accounts were secure and confidential, and, "whatever the result of the election, as far as tax is concerned, it's you that must make the declaration".

According to David Andrew, head of savings at the Leeds, he is not trying to encourage depositors to evade tax. He says that depositors are told, in writing, before they open an account that they have a duty to keep the Inland Revenue informed.

The Inland Revenue's Section 739 Group, whose task it is to catch offshore tax evaders, netted £4.9 million in 1990 and £2.5 million in 1991, which seems a very small amount. But some of their successes may not show up in the figures because they are attributed to other Inland Revenue departments.

Hop on a Chinese bike with Barclays

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE opportunity to invest in bicycles in the land of push-bikes is being offered by Barclays Bank. It has this week launched a fund which will invest in Chinese "B" shares in the Shenzhen and Shanghai markets of the People's Republic of China, including those in China Cycle, the world's largest manufacturer of bicycles.

Barclays China aims to raise \$40 million to invest in those Chinese companies that

have "B" shares. These are the only shares available to foreigners. The number of this class of share is rising quickly. Currently, Southern China Glass; Shanghai Vacuum, an electronics company; Shenzhen Konka, an assembler of colour televisions; Shenzhen Property, a property developer and Shenzhen Petrochemicals are, together with China Cycles, the only companies offering "B" shares. They will soon be joined by Huafu Electronics and by the end of the year the number is expected to total 30.

As the fund will invest a maximum of 5 per cent in any one company, Walter Wu, the fund manager, will initially invest in Hong Kong and Taiwan companies with Chinese investment links and in cash until the range of "B" shares will allow full investment in China.

John Kelly, Barclays Unicorn investment director, said the fund, which is based in Jersey and managed in Hong Kong, is for the more sophisticated investor. The Chinese



Pedal power in China

market is currently displaying some of the volatility of the immature SE Asian markets, said Mr Kelly.

The fund, which closes its launch period on Wednesday is open to both personal and institutional investors.

Mr Kelly said: "Institutional investors see this as an opportunity to get into an attractive market. China is a most exciting market which has seen growth rates in gross national production averaging 9 per

cent over ten years. In the special enterprise zones of Shenzhen and Shanghai the growth rate is 13 per cent."

While a liberal attitude towards foreign investment and capitalism now prevails, a return to hard-line communism and a backlash against foreign investment is a possibility. The two securities markets are still in their infancy and the reliability of the trading and settlement systems is largely unproven. The market's growth has not been smooth. In 1988, it was deemed to be too fast and stampeded up, said Mr Kelly.

The price/earnings ratios of many of the "A" shares, available to the Chinese, are reaching as high as 50. Those for "B" shares are up to 24 times earnings.

The open-ended fund, which has a minimum investment of \$1,500 is one of ten Asian selection funds offered by Barclays through a collective investment umbrella company. It is available through brokers, and daily dealing and switching are available. It is not authorised in Britain or Hong Kong.

The fund will also invest in cash, fixed-interest securities, instruments with floating interest rates and short-term paper, such as Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and commercial paper. GT is limiting investment to a maximum 10 per cent in any one company.

Reserves concern brings limit on with-profit bonds

BY SARA McCONNELL

NATIONAL Provident Institution is to limit sales of its with-profits bonds to £200 million this year, amid increasing concern that high sales of the bonds could put an unacceptable strain on company reserves.

If stock markets fall, those cashing in early could find that the company adjusts the value of the investment downwards. This is known as a market value adjustment.

Sales of bonds at National Provident rose dramatically by £130 million in the first three months of this year, after £67 million had been sold since June last year.

The company said: "This level of sales could have been due to aggressive selling, but we are confident it was not due to improper selling. We have no evidence that this product was mis-sold. Of course some independent financial advisers have their eye to the main chance, knowing they will earn a commission of 5.25 per cent of every sale."

A total of 12,237 people have so far invested in National Provident with-profits bonds. The average investment is £17,000.

National Provident is intending to write to advisers when it has sold £170 million of bonds, which is likely by the end of the month. The bond will then be withdrawn two weeks later, giving time for the last funds to arrive.

Sun Life said that it had so far sold £200 million of bonds in 1992. Peter Clark, the company's group actuary, said he was confident that bonds were not being mis-sold.

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Insurer to cease underwriting Neighbourhood Watch cover

By SARA MCCONNELL

AN insurance company which underwrites household and contents insurance specially for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is to pull out of the UK market. Switzerland Insurance, which will stop providing cover from the end of June, has, like other insurance companies, suffered increased losses because of theft claims.

It says its decision to withdraw was not as a result of unacceptable losses on contents insurance.

Malcolm Porter, general manager, said that the company was being reorganised and would no longer be underwriting insurance sold by professional brokers.

"Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others. It is true that there has been an increase in crime, so the account hasn't been as profitable as it might have been. Inflation has also put up the cost of claims — and in a recession people look to their insurance."

The decision comes as two of the largest household insurers, Sun Alliance and Norwich Union, announced huge losses on household contents

insurance, mainly because of theft.

The cost to Norwich Union of domestic property theft more than doubled to £33 million, while Sun Alliance said that household theft claims were up 32 per cent.

At the same time, some insurers and experts are questioning the effectiveness of belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, when many are underfunded and lack commitment from local people.

Strover, the broker that administers the Switzerland Family Guard policy underwritten by Switzerland Insurance, said it was talking to three other insurers in an attempt to find a replacement.

Paul Strover, the chairman, said the main problem had been that Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators were not prepared to recommend the policy to their members. "They did not seem to understand that a sponsor will not continue unless it gets something in return," said Mr Strover.

Policyholders have to be members of Neighbourhood Watch to qualify for the scheme. He stressed that there should be no problem

replacing Switzerland, and no reason why the new underwriter should not keep the premium differential.

Members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are commonly believed by insurers to be among the safest risks for contents insurance, on the grounds that they are likely to be more security conscious if they have made the effort to join a scheme. Switzerland's Mr Porter said that Strover's cover was aimed at the type of person who cared

trolling the standards of vigilance of different schemes — and some are more effective than others.

The number of schemes is growing and there are now around 100,000 covering about 5 million households, according to Home Office figures.

Do Sohail Husain, senior consultant at Crime Concern, who has researched the effectiveness of schemes, said: "The general feeling is that most schemes are not making

'Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others'

enough about his or her property to belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The company's claims experience showed that Neighbourhood Watch was effective at reducing the crime rate in some areas, he said.

Most insurers try to encourage policyholders to become members by offering discounts on premiums normally of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. However, there is no central body con-

a significant impact at local level. Neighbourhood Watch is one of several performance indicators.

"Initially, police forces were into a numbers game and no consideration was given to how the schemes could be managed, and there was no support or training for co-ordinators. But schemes do have a deterrent effect if there are signs and stickers in windows. They shouldn't be written off."

Insurers have to rely for the

most part on information given to them on proposal forms.

Mr Strover said: "We can't go and inspect each house. We have to rely on information coming through on proposal forms."

However, John Brownhill, of Brownhill, Morris and West, a broker in Beckenham, Kent, said that Neighbourhood Watches had to be active to be effective.

The broker runs a scheme designed exclusively for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, underwritten by General Accident. Mr Brownhill said: "We go to each house and do a security survey, the same as a crime prevention officer would."

Neighbourhood Watch membership was one element in making homes more secure, said Mr Brownhill.

General Accident is planning to underwrite a further eight similar schemes around the country after the initial success in London.

schemes with brokers, preferring to offer no-claims bonuses of up to 25 per cent.

"We haven't had sufficient proof that Neighbourhood Watch works universally. If we are looking at a broad geographical spread, we feel it is better to reward policyholders who do not claim."

Other insurers concede that the standard of schemes

may be variable, but continue to have enough faith in their effectiveness to offer discounts.

Sun Alliance offers a 10 per cent protected homes discount to those who have a burglar alarm, are a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, or who stay in all or most of the day.

Steve Taylor, Sun Alliance's superintendent, house- hold, said: "We like to encourage policyholders to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We see it as one of many measures which help people become more security conscious. A lot of people haven't realised that nipping down to the shops and leaving the door unlocked means an opportunist thief can break in."



Home improvement loan costs soar

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

HOMEOWNERS who have given up trying to sell their properties, deciding to extend or improve them instead, could have a shock when they apply for further advances. A loan of £1,000 could cost £500 or more in indemnity fees. This is because property values in many parts of the country have fallen.

Someone who borrowed 70 per cent of the value of a house in 1988 could find that, because the market has fallen by 20 per cent or more, a fairly small further advance could take the total loan to more than 90 per cent of the new valuation.

Lenders then insist on indemnity cover, which starts at about £4 for every £100 borrowed over 75 per cent of a property's value and rises to £7 per £100 over 90 per cent. Indemnity premiums are charged to borrowers to protect lenders against losses if they have to foreclose and sell properties for less than the sums borrowed.

However, borrowers are not ex-

pected to pay for indemnity cover until they take out further advances — and then they have to pay on amounts above 75 per cent of values. So borrowers who in 1988 took out £70,000 loans on properties bought for £100,000 but now worth £80,000, would find the maximum they could borrow from most lenders would be £6,000, as that would take them up to 95 per cent of values. It would cost about £880 in indemnity fees. To borrow £1,000 could involve an indemnity fee of £670. In addition, there could be an arrangement fee and a valuation fee.

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, said it had received more applications for further advances to pay for home improvements. "The fact that people are building on to their homes is an indication that they are staying put, creating space and improving," the society said.

Halifax does not have fixed rules about the circumstances in which it requires a new valuation for a further advance. That depends on when the

first loan was made, how large it was, and the property's value then.

Applicants must provide builders' estimates and details of any planning permission obtained. Halifax charges fees of between £40 and £100 for further advances, and valuation fees starting at £50 on further advances of £5,000, rising to £70 for £20,000 and then by £5 per £10,000. Further advances are charged at the same rate as the rest of the mortgage.

Abbey National has also seen increased demand for home improvement loans. It, too, charges the same interest rates as on the main mortgage. Loans taken out before January 1988 need further valuations if new ones will take totals to more than 70 per cent of the originals. Loans taken out after that date need fresh valuations if the loans will total 60 per cent of the original prices.

The rules on when a new valuation is required have operated since last November, because house prices have fallen and would leave lenders exposed if they lent large sums on the basis of old values. The National &

Provincial scrapped further advances for most borrowers several years ago. People wanting to improve their homes are offered separate loans over five to 25 years. The arrangement fee, which starts at £50, includes the cost of any valuation that might be required. These are automatically carried out if the fast valuation took place more than two years ago. Home improvement loans are limited to 95 per cent of properties' values. Maximum loan is £100,000 and the minimum, £1,000.

Woolwich Building Society requires a valuation for further advances when the new loan will trigger indemnity cover. "It is possible on a £1,000 further advance for there to be a £500 indemnity premium," a spokesman said. The society charges an administration fee of £50 to £100, including any necessary valuation. Last summer, the Woolwich carried out a survey of more than 1,300 owner occupiers. Given the choice of moving or improving, 31 per cent said they would choose to move. But many no longer have that option.



New SIB rules may cut return on high income unit trusts

By HAZEL SPINK

YIELDS on some high-income unit trusts seem likely to fall because of new Securities and Investments Board rules on how fund management groups deduct management expenses.

The rules forbid companies to deduct the costs of running a fund from its capital growth. Instead, these costs must be deducted from income the fund receives, which means lower yields for investors. The rules were published at the end of last year and reflect a statement of recommended practice drawn up by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation.

They are aimed at enabling investors to see more clearly what charges are being deducted and at drawing comparisons between different companies' fees. In the past, companies have deducted charges in various ways.

Fund managers are already finding it difficult to maintain yields because recession is forcing many companies in which they have invested to cut dividends.

Elderly investors, who rely

heavily on savings to supplement income, are likely to be hit hardest by the new rules. Exeter Fund Managers is one of the companies which has been affected. The company plans to cut the gross yield on its High Income Unit Trust (ExHIT) by 1.75 per cent from July 1.

In a letter to unitholders, Ian Henderson, the chairman, said: "We are aware that many unitholders chose ExHIT primarily for the high

income it provides and that these holders will not welcome the change", but attempts to obtain a dispensation from SIB have failed, he said.

He added: "We very much regret the need to make this alteration to the operation of the trust."

Traditionally, Exeter has levied all expenses against its fund's capital account in order to maximise income to unitholders. The group has

been investigating the background to the case to establish whether and to whom it needed to make representations. "We are currently exploring how many of our members may be affected by these new rules. If there is a vast body, we will make representations in very strong terms," he said.

"At this stage, I can see nothing to suggest that either the SORP or the SIB regulations in themselves prohibit certain expenses being set

against capital," said Mr Beales. Recent developments were particularly worrying because many investors in high-income funds were interested primarily in income and were often not concerned about capital growth, he said.

If the new rules did ban expenses being deducted from capital, this clearly undermined the original objective of the investor, he added.

He said that providing the method of deducting expenses was clearly disclosed, there was no reason why companies should not be allowed to continue to deduct them from capital.

Independent financial adviser Michael Rose, proprietor of Michael Rose & Associates, said: "Exeter's fund is a specialist fund, which is particularly suitable for the elderly who are not too worried about capital growth but are looking for the prospect of growing income."

He added: "I now have to tell my clients, who came into the fund with a view to getting high income, that there is going to be a drop in that income."

SIB said the new rules were based on existing trust law.

YORKSHIRE Building Society is offering new borrowers discounts of 0.5 per cent, guaranteed until November 1. First-time buyers will get additional 2.5 per cent discounts for the first six months of their loans, bringing their rate down to 7.99 per cent. Alternatively, they can opt for discounts of 1.25 per cent for 12 months.

Those with loans of more than £50,000 can get a 1 per cent discount for 12 months, bringing their rate down to 9.49 per cent. The society's Equity Plus scheme, which offers loans of up to 55 per cent of purchase price, will cost 8.49 per cent for the first six months as there is a 2 per cent discount.

Up to £6,000 can now be invested in Friends' Provident's Stewardship personal equity plan, which is linked to

the company's Stewardship income trust. This follows the Budget announcement that the full £6,000 Pep allowance can be invested in unit or investment trusts. The Stewardship trust is an ethical fund investing in companies with products judged to be of long-term benefit to the community.

Investors who put £3,000 or more into Save & Prosper's managed portfolio Pep or dealing plan before May 29 will have their initial charges halved to 0.75 per cent. Those investors taking out a unit trust Pep for sum of £3,000 or more will receive a discount of 1 per cent on the unit offer price, a saving of up to £60 on a subscription of £6,000.

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□ Holidaymakers whose destinations turn into war zones will still be covered by TSB's travel insurance.

The bank has removed the war risk exclusion from its travel and holiday insurance policy. Cover for medical and other expenses has been increased from £1 million to £5 million, and baggage cover from £1,000 to £1,500. Delayed baggage cover goes up to £100. Loss of passport cover is now £250 instead of £100 and personal liability cover goes up from £1 million to £2 million.

□ Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has launched a fixed-rate investment bond that pays 11.3 per cent gross (£475 per cent net) for one

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Check agency files if applying for credit

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

ANYONE who plans to apply for credit should check what information is on credit reference files, Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, advised this week. He was responding to his defeat on actions brought by him against the four main credit reference agencies. He wanted to stop them supplying information to lenders about people, other than applicants.

This third-party information can lead to creditworthy people being turned down for loans. Mr Howe estimates that it could affect 100,000 applicants a year.

One woman complained to the registrar that she had been turned down for a loan because of the bad debts of a son who had left home seven years previously. The woman had properly repaid credit on several occasions herself.

At present, credit reference agencies supply information from their files on

the basis of addresses at which the applicant has lived. Information recorded on other persons, who have not lived there at the same time as the applicant, is also passed on to lenders trying to assess an applicant for a loan.

From July 31 next year agencies will not be allowed to supply information on any person who has not lived at an address at the same time as the credit applicant.

But they will be able to supply information on people who have lived at the same address as the credit applicant as a member of the same family in a single household.

Mr Howe said: "I am pleased that the tribunal has supported me to get rid of a truly unfair and unacceptable credit industry practice." He had wanted a total ban on third party information.

Elizabeth Stamon, director of the Retail Credit Group, said: "When the system changes, information on the same family at the same address will be passed

on. If a son or daughter runs up a bill, parents may decide to pay off the debt and then get the money back. There is a mutual responsibility within the family."

There could still be problems after next July for people whose relatives have a county court judgment against them.

"I would therefore advise people to write to the agencies and ask for a copy of their file which they are entitled to do under the Consumer Credit Act," Mr Howe said.

The agencies against which the registrar took action are CCN Systems Ltd, Consumer Affairs Dept, PO Box 40, Nottingham NG7 2SS; Credit and Data Marketing Services, CCA Dept, Dove Mill, Dean Church Lane, Bolsover, Derbyshire, BL3 4ET; Equifax Europe Ltd, Consumer Affairs Dept, Spectrum House, 1a North Avenue, Clydebank, Glasgow G81 2DR, and Infolink Ltd, CCA Department, 38 Whitworth Street, Manchester M60 1QH.



Counting the cost: Eric Howe wanted total ban

Quietly very excessive

From Mr P. Platt

Sir, With reference to the recent debate concerning excessive bank charges, I list current business account rates charged at my bank.

These figures only came to light when questioning their quarterly commission charge. The charges are published nowhere in the branch.

For every cheque issued, 53p; for each paying-in slip, 75p; credits via PDQ, 16p; to count cash paid in per £100.00, 59p; to count cash paid out per £100, 55p; each cheque paid in, 24p; charge for buying small change per £100, £1.40p; statements each, 90p.

Thus, a retailer depositing £1,000 cash, 10 cheques and buying £100 worth of small change will incur a charge of £10.45 for that one transaction.

No invoice is raised for this amount, and the charge is taken from the account without prior notification.

I can think of no other business where the costs of goods or services are kept so secret. Should not banks be required to publish their charges prominently in each branch? This would only bring them in step with the rest of the business community. Indeed, as a restaurateur, I am bound by legislation to do so.

Finally, who else has the cheek to charge for a statement?

Yours faithfully,
PETER PLATT,
22 Canonbury Square,
Islington, N1 2AL

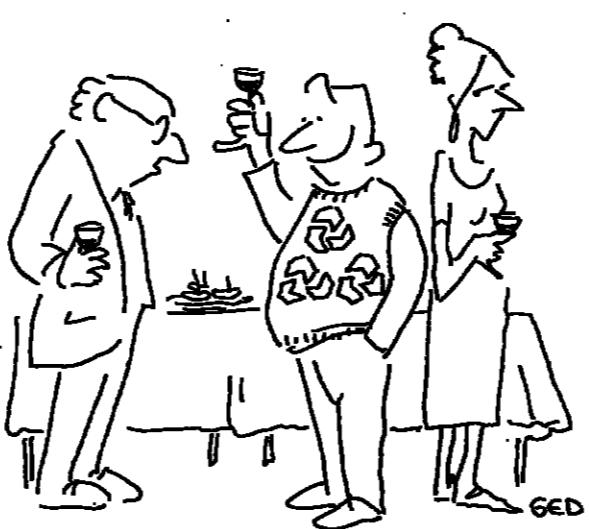
LETTERS

CREDIT HORROR

From P. J. Chuck

Sir, Having complained to Giro about the amount of interest credited to my deposit account I was absolutely appalled to be informed, in writing, that even when there was over £1,000 credit, their current rate is 0.98 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. CHUCK,
3 Broadhurst Close,
Richmond, Surrey.



CLOSING THE ACCOUNT WITH A SHERRY

From Mr A. J. Alexander

Sir, Last autumn I opened a current account with my local branch of the National Westminster Bank and, as I was a student, the bank credited this account with £30.

On Christmas Eve I closed the account, withdrew the

£30 and later bought myself a jumper. As it was Christmas Eve the bank offered me a glass of sherry with the compliments of the season. Who says the bank always wins!

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALEXANDER,
North Harrow, Middlesex.

CREDIT HORROR

From P. J. Chuck

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Yours faithfully,
P. J. CHUCK,
3 Broadhurst Close,
Richmond, Surrey.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 1st rates 25%	6m/moy investment 6%	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c:	2.63	2.65	2.12	none/home	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:					
5 days	7.08	7.08	5.85	25,000-50,000	1 mth
17	7.17	7.17	5.74	25,000-50,000	1 mth
30	7.25	7.25	5.62	25,000-50,000	1 mth
6 month	7.03	7.03	5.62	2,500-50,000	6 mth
12 month	7.27	7.27	5.62	10,000-25,000	1 mth
24 month	7.18	7.18	5.62	10,000-25,000	1 mth
36 month	6.95	6.95	5.10	10,000-25,000	3 mth
52 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
72 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
96 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
120 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
144 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
168 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
180 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
216 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
240 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
252 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
264 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
276 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
288 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
300 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
312 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
324 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
336 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
348 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
360 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
372 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
384 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
396 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
408 month	6.98	6.98	5.10	10,000-25,000	1 mth
420 month	6.98</td				

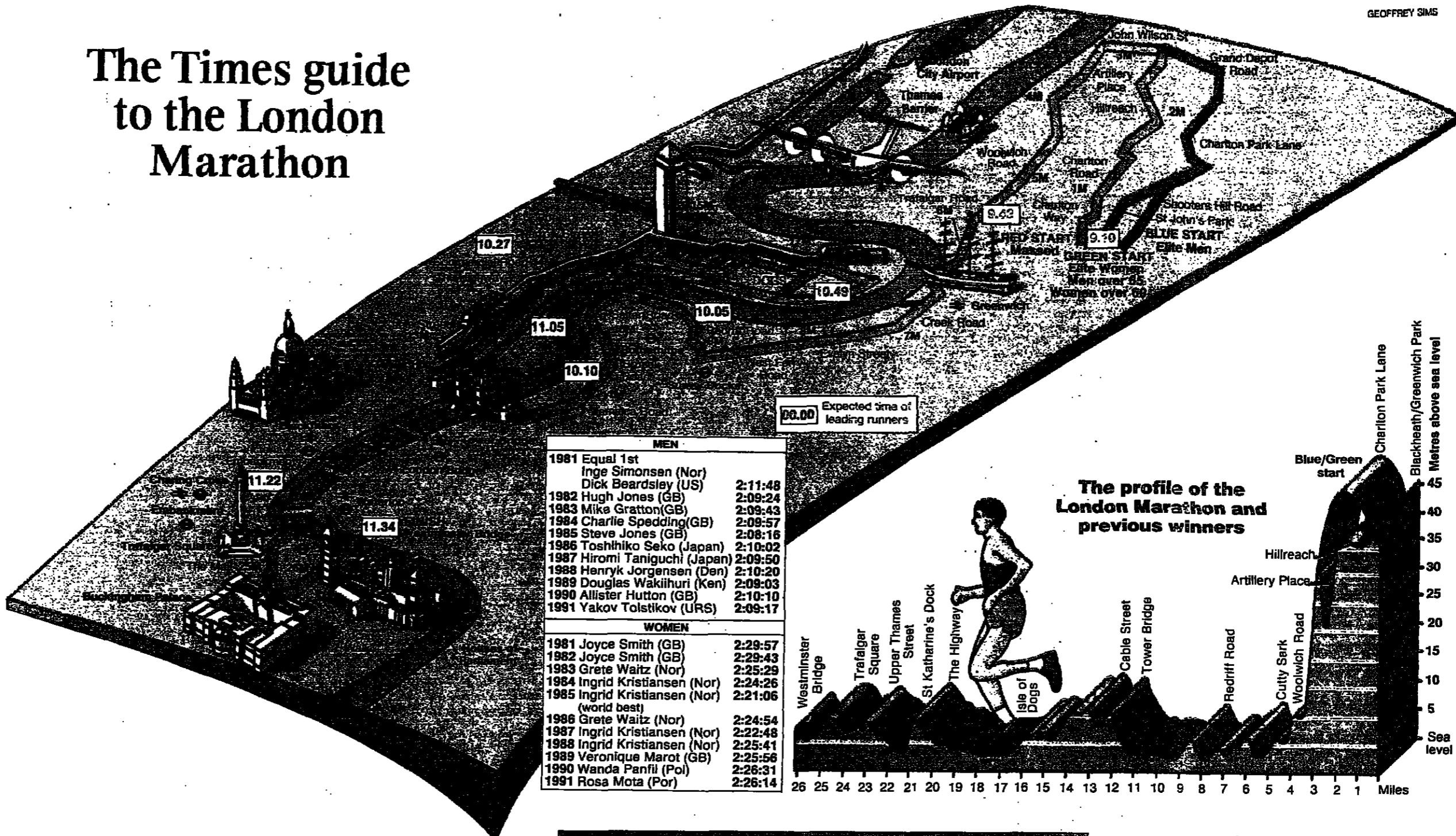
50 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

GEOFFREY SIMS

The Times guide to the London Marathon



Wallace not one for the waiting game

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANDREA WALLACE has come a long way in a short time, a concept which will be uppermost in her mind tomorrow morning. The idea is to cover 26 miles, 385 yards in under two-and-a-half hours and be the first of 25,000 runners across Westminster Bridge in the world's biggest marathon. What began as a hobby less than three years ago could blossom into a £50,000 payday.

The ADT London Marathon will send its elite women on their journey from Blackheath at 9.10am, 20 minutes before the men. Unless their race is particularly slow and the men's especially fast it will be ladies first across the line.

Wallace, contrary to most expert opinion, thinks it can be her. Your correspondent's view is that, with cautious application, she would be good for a place in 2hr 38min. Wallace, though, has the Liz McColgan feel for talking herself up.

The Olympic and defending London champion, Rosa Mota, is most people's pick for victory but Wallace has other ideas. "I do not think Rosa will run 2hr 24min," she said. "I have got it in me to run around that time." Running round the house used to be Wallace's main exercise. "The daily routine was looking after the kids,

cleaning the house, making the tea, washing up and going to bed — and that was my whole life," Wallace said. "I needed a hobby."

In May 1989 she joined John Hambly, her boyfriend, on a loop round their house in Torquay. Boyfriend became coach, hobby became vocation, hogtied mother-of-two became international traveller with invitations to race all over Europe. And jogger became world road race silver medal winner last autumn.

Nothing, though, paid as well as tomorrow might: £31,000 to the winner (£17,000 for second and £12,000 for third). London has equal pay for equal work: record bonuses rising from £600 for men under 2:13.30 and women under 2:35.00 to £20,000 for a world best, and identical prize-money structure. Appearance fees on top.

But Wallace must concentrate on splits, not cuts. Her percentage cut of the £216,000 prize-money will be determined by her careful attention to split times. If she is drawn into too fast a pace by the experienced Mota then the consequences could be catastrophic. But her 2:31.36 marathon debut in Carpi, Italy, augurs well. London is a faster course.

In only her second mara-

thon, Wallace might have been better choosing to consolidate her position in Britain. She is, after all, ranked only twelfth all-time. Would not leading the Brits, beating Veronique Marot, holder of the British best time, be a more sensible option than tackling Mota head on? "No way, I would get bored," Wallace said. "I can definitely say I will be with Rosa until 22 miles and then anything can happen."

In their three races so far, all of 10 kilometres or less, Wallace has beaten Mota each time. The results bear little relevance to 26 miles, except in one respect, according to Hambly. "Andrea would not worry about her ability to match Rosa in a finish." They should note, however, that Dionisio Castro, an accomplished track runner, was out-sprinted for fourth place in his marathon debut in Rotterdam last weekend.

Aged 25, Wallace finds herself with two hobbies. The other is keeping horses and the two almost came into conflict for the marathon. She was getting up twice in the night to check on her Arab mare, which was due to give birth. On Tuesday, a foal was born and Wallace could stop worrying. His name? Marathon Man, of course.

In only her second mara-



Straight from the horse's mouth: Wallace hopes her new foal will bring luck



KATRIN DORRE (Germany)

Age 30

Best time: 2:25.24

Bronze medals from 1988 Olympics and 1991 world championships. Won 12 of her 19 marathons. Ran 2:27.34 for third in Osaka in January. In process of moving house from usually polluted Leipzig to rural Odenwald. Gave up medical studies to concentrate on running and bringing up young daughter. No longer supported by East German state system but earns well from running. Second favourite.

Best of the rest

Men

JAN HURUK (Poland)

Age 32

Best time: 2:10.16; 3rd last year, 4th 1991 world championships.

MAURILIO CASTILLO (Mexico)

Age 29

Best time: 2:10.47; 7th 1991 world championships, 4th Tokyo Marathon in February.

ALLISTER HUTTON (GB)

Age 37

Best time: 2:09.17; London winner 1990; set his best time in London 1985. Has been running well this winter.

Collection of fund-runners all determined to collect

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE nine competitors in the *Times*/Unisys marathon fund-raising team are approaching the London Marathon with a mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation; their responses to the challenge they have set themselves being as varied as the causes for which they are willing to risk their pride and their feet.

Leading the *Times* team home should be William Black and Nicholas Birrell, who both aim to finish in 3hr 15min. Black is an experienced runner from South Africa but he almost failed to make the starting line-up. A query from the race director, Alan Storey, over his nationality, had him worried.

"Although I have run in South Africa, I told him I've

always held a British passport," he said. "I've got my number now so nothing is going to stop me."

He started with the aim to raise money to send his friend Trevor Andary home to the United States.

Andary, a teacher, was injured in a biking accident last October, which left him in a wheelchair.

The appeal fund has already reached £1,500, more than the cost of an air ticket.

Black, who beat three hours for one marathon in South Africa, wants to raise as much as possible to help with additional expenses.

The main cause for concern in the weather, with most of the runners worried that Sunday will be warm and sunny.

Ken McGuire, from Dev-

on, claims to be a winter runner. He has clocked up 3,200 miles in the last eight weeks and knows that for the first 20 miles he will be fighting fit. But after that, he will have his eyes peeled for a taxi.

"A week ago I was supremely confident but now I have seen the sunshine I am not so sure," he said.

He is running for the British Epilepsy Association, having been diagnosed as having epilepsy in his twenties.

As a marathon novice he is not too concerned with beating the clock but he is worried the warm weather could add an hour to his target of 4hr 30min.

John Pennell has no worries about setting a fast time. "I'll be running with the old codgers at the back," he said. His cause is the Alzheimer's Disease As-

sociation and already he has £1,000 in the bank for the charity.

"I told everyone I want the donations doubled if they have to be made posthumously," he said, "having set himself the modest tar-

get time of five hours."

MARK PLAATJES (stateless)

Age 30

Best time: 2:08.58

Former South African granted political asylum in the United States in 1988. Undergoing five-year wait for citizenship and ineligible for Olympics. "This will be my Olympics," I suppose, he says. Best time set in 1985 but confident of improving. Won Los Angeles (2:10.21) last year and was second to Steve Brace in Berlin. Spent £11,000 earnings from running on brother's cancer treatment. The favourite.

PETER MAHER (Canada)

Age 32

Best time: 2:11.46

Pub beer changed him from 18½-stone Irish drinker and smoker into Canadian world championship marathon runner. On 12 pints a day and 400 cigarettes a week when volunteering for the Cork City Marathon ("I did it for a bet when I was drunk"). Finished in 4:23. Ambitions include 17-year-old Canadian record of 2:10.09. Thirteenth in Tokyo world championship. Uncertain about form but a top-five shot.

PAUL EVANS (Britain)

Age 31

Best time: 2:12.53

Most interesting British newcomer to London. Has shown abundant talent at various distances but took three goes to get the marathon right. Failed to finish his first blip up in his second but ran 2:12.53 in Carpi, Italy, in October. If he gets it completely right in fourth marathon could surprise favourites. "I want to run under 2:10," he says. Lisbon half-marathon time last month (1:34) suggests he can.

YAKOV TOLSTIKOV (CIS)

Age 32

Best time: 2:09.17

London winner last year in time that remains his best. Was his sixth marathon win but first outside Soviet Union. Political change has freed him to make more money, but form has been poor. Dropped out of world championships, 11th in Carpi, 8th in Fukuoka. Hides his cash ("it's dangerous to keep your money in a bank in Russia, you never know what might happen"). Has he been hiding his form, too?

STEVE BRACE (Britain)

Age 30

Best time: 2:10.57

Britain's most successful marathon runner, man or woman, of last ten years. Olympic, world, European titles; defending London champion. "Every marathon I run is improved," she says. Her 1991 world championship debut was her first championship since 1984. Operation to remove ovarian cyst last May left her short of breath. Providing she does not suffer recurrence of stomach pains, should win.

KATRIN DORRE (Germany)

Age 33

Best time: 2:23.29

Bronze medals from 1988

Olympics and 1991 world championships. Won 12 of her 19 marathons. Ran 2:27.34 for third in Osaka in January. In process of moving house from usually polluted Leipzig to rural Odenwald. Gave up medical studies to concentrate on running and bringing up young daughter. No longer supported by East German state system but earns well from running. Second favourite.

ROSA MOTA (Portugal)

Age 33

Best time: 2:23.29

Most successful marathon runner, man or woman, of last ten years. Olympic, world, European titles; defending London champion. "Every marathon I run is improved," she says. Her 1991 world championship debut was her first championship since 1984. Operation to remove ovarian cyst last May left her short of breath. Providing she does not suffer recurrence of stomach pains, should win.

Best of the rest

Men

JAN HURUK (Poland)

Age 32

Best time: 2:10.16; 3rd last year, 4th 1991 world championships.

MAURILIO CASTILLO (Mexico)

Age 29

Best time: 2:10.47; 7th 1991 world championships, 4th Tokyo Marathon in February.

ALLISTER HUTTON (GB)

Age 37

Best time: 2:09.17; London winner 1990; set his best time in London 1985. Has been running well this winter.

TIMES FUND-RUNNING TEAM

- 28304: John Nugent, Graham Nugent Paralympic Fund
- 16390: Justin Wier, Brinos
- 13640: Stephen Corrill, Starlight Foundation
- 35088: John Pennell, Alzheimer's Disease Association
- 33888: Kenneth Maguire, British Epilepsy Association
- 08212: William Black, Trevor Andary Travel Fund
- 33887: Douglas Boddy, Radiotherapy Unit at Cookridge Hospital
- 32838: Anthony Stevens, Daneford Trust
- 08459: Nicholas Birrell, Qwest Cancer Test

**Kenbu is
too sharp
for Hatoof**

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

RACING 53

Speedy Magic Ring to strengthen claim

Following the fillies' classic trial yesterday, the spotlight now focuses on some of the leading colts for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket when they contest the Singer & Friedlander Greenham Stakes over seven furlongs at Newbury today.

The principals in question are Rodrigo de Triano, Lion Cavern and Magic Ring.

In going for Magic Ring, I am banking on his ability to be as effective over seven furlongs as he was over five last season, since he has never been asked to race over further than the minimum trip.

His trainer, Paul Cole, who certainly got things right last year when he amassed more than £1 million in prize-money, and topped the table for the first time, is convinced that he will.

Furthermore, a study of Magic Ring's pedigree suggests he will also, because he is by Green Desert, who won the Free Handicap over this trip and he is out of a mare by Emper, who won a Derby.

Harness that inherent stamina to the speed that he showed last year when winning the Norfolk Stakes and the Cornwall Stakes at Ascot, either side of finishing third against older sprinters in the Prix d'Abbaye at Longchamp, and you have a pretty formidable competitor over today's trip.

He should prove too strong for even Rodrigo de Triano, who went through his two-year-old career unbeaten.

My reason for opposing Rodrigo de Triano is the belief that there would have been little between him and Lion Cavern in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket last autumn if the latter had

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

enjoyed a better run.

Subsequently, Lion Cavern went on to at least partially justify that opinion by winning the Harris Hill Stakes on today's track, albeit when starting at 9-4 on to beat weak opponents.

Stiffer opposition is certainly guaranteed today by the presence also in the field of the Gimcrack winner, River Falls, who was beaten three times by Rodrigo de Triano last year, his more-than-useful stable companion Swing Low and Alhijaz.

The latter will certainly relish today's softish conditions, judged on the way that he romped home twice in succession in Italy last autumn after finishing a creditable third to the talented Seante Rhyme at Goodwood.

Today's nap, though, is Saddlers' Hall to win the Lanes End John Porter EBF Stakes in the experienced hands of Pat Eddery.

A late maturing type, who finished second in last year's

Guineas, he is likely to benefit from the soft ground at Ayr.

Shoon Wind, who finished second in last year's

Guineas, is likely to benefit from the soft ground at Ayr.

Shoon Wind's chance to-day could well have been improved by two niggling setbacks in Tom Troubadour's preparation, but for which he would certainly have been my choice.

Hammond: Ayr chance for Shoon Wind

NEWBURY: 4.00 Ces Best.

THIRSK

MANDARIN
2.15 Sober Lad. 2.45 Norden Challenger. 3.15 Ruh. 3.45 Carlingford. 4.15 Mainly Me. 4.45 Penny Hasset.

THUNDERER
2.15 Sober Lad. 2.45 Duplicity. 3.15 My Memoirs. 3.45 Vasilev. 4.15 Nimble Deer. 4.45 Best Effort. Richard Evans: 3.15 Jeune.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Zaahi.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 CLIFTON STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,584; 5D) (6 runners)

1 SOBER LAD 25 (J) J Berry 94. G Carter 4 2 NORDEN CHALLENGER 24 (D,F,G,S) M Naughton 6-100. G Hind 2 3 ARKENDALE DIAMOND 24 (D,F,G,S) J McNamee 3-100. G Donegan 11 4 PRINCE FERNAND 165 (D,F,G,M) M McCormick 3-100. G Donegan 11 5 0-0-0 THE AUDITION BIDDER 21 (F) R Hollands 3-93. Paul Eddery 5 6 0-0-0 CORN FUTURES 15 (D,F) Leigh 4-10. K Darley 4 7 23-1 ARCTIC FROST 19 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 11. N Corrigan 6 8 13-2 ARTIC APPEAL 3-1 Duplicity. 9.2 Price Ferdinand. 6-1 Norden Challenger. 8-1 Gentle Hero. 12-1 others

1 Sober Lad. 5-2 Woodstock, 4-1 Gaynor Goodman, 8-1 Gone A Song, 10-1 others

2.45 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL STAKES (£6,004; 6D) (7)

1 060- GENTLE HERO 162 (D,F,G,S) M Naughton 6-100. G Hind 2 033- NORTON CHALLENGER 114J (CD,G,S) M E Astbury 2-100. G Donegan 3 015- DUALITY 21 (D,F,G,S) L Hollands 4-11. A McNamee 3 4 222- PRINCE FERNAND 165 (D,F,G,M) M McCormick 3-100. G Donegan 5 0-0-0 THE AUDITION BIDDER 21 (F) R Hollands 3-93. Paul Eddery 5 6 0-0-0 CORN FUTURES 15 (D,F) Leigh 4-10. K Darley 4 7 23-1 ARCTIC FROST 19 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 11. N Corrigan 6 8 13-2 ARTIC APPEAL 3-1 Duplicity. 9.2 Price Ferdinand. 6-1 Norden Challenger. 8-1 Gentle Hero. 12-1 others

1 Sober Lad. 5-2 Woodstock, 4-1 Gaynor Goodman, 8-1 Gone A Song, 10-1 others

3.15 TETLEY BITTER CLASSIC TRIAL
(3-Y-O: £7,500; 7D) (5)

1 20-1 MY MEMORIES 21 (G) R Hannon 92. A McGlone 8 2 033- JEUNE 19 (G) C Wragg 6-11. J Reid 4 3 164- RIBBLE 192 (D,F,B) B Wall 8-11. K Darley 4 4 222- PRINCE FERNAND 165 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 11 5 0-0-0 THE AUDITION BIDDER 21 (F) R Hollands 3-93. Paul Eddery 5 6 0-0-0 CORN FUTURES 15 (D,F) Leigh 4-10. K Darley 4 7 23-1 ARCTIC FROST 19 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 11. N Corrigan 6 8 13-2 ARTIC APPEAL 3-1 Duplicity. 9.2 Price Ferdinand. 6-1 Norden Challenger. 8-1 Gentle Hero. 12-1 others

1 Sober Lad. 5-2 Woodstock, 4-1 Gaynor Goodman, 8-1 Gone A Song, 10-1 others

4.45 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP
(2,383; 5D) (21)

1 000- SAMSON 206 (D,F) J Bading 4-104. A Clark 4 2 5190- BRITASIS 17 (D,F) T Farthing 5-12. J Panning 3 3 050- HERE COMES A STAR 201 (D,F,J) S Morris 9 4 0410- COMPANY CASH 18 (D,F) R Baetens 4-91. R P Elliott 10 5 0-0-0 DRUM SERGEANT 14 (Parks 5-94) N Charles 18 6 0-0-0 SLADES HALL 24 (F) T Barron 5-12. Alan Gravett 16 7 0522- CARTOON 16 (S) S Morris 4-12. J Panning 9 8 000- LADY'S MANTLE 187 (F) R Baetens 5-10. R P Elliott 10 9 0-0-0 BEST EFFORT 193 (C,D,F,S) M Naughton 6-12. R P Elliott 11 10 0-0-0 SULLY'S CHOICE 14 (D,C,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-12. J Panning 11 11 0-0-0 MISS BRIDGE 5 (B,D,F,S) M E Astbury 8-11. K Darley 4 12 0-0-0 CHERRY BOB 234 (C) Thomas 8-2. K Darley 4 13 0-0-0 DAD'S DREAM 215 (F) C Thomas 8-2. J Panning 11 14 0-0-0 VILLA CAPRI 153 (C) Britain 8-2. S Wood 8 15 034- GREETLAND FOLLY 170 (F,G) R Whakere 8-8. A Clark 4 16 0-0-0 HUMBLE DEER 192 (H) Sis 8-5. D Hollands 11 17 0-0-0 CHERRY BOB 234 (C) Thomas 8-2. K Darley 4 18 0-0-0 DAD'S DREAM 215 (F) C Thomas 8-2. 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TODAY APRIL

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern hope to limit the damage

WHEREAS the FA Cup final next month could yet feature a couple of comparative lightweights from the second division, the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow pits together the nation's heavyweight knockout specialists. At least, that is how the contest between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest was originally billed.

Forest have since been weakened and may resemble a pugilist who has struggled to make the weight. The image is appropriate. Because of their success in cup competitions this season, they recently had to play three times in a week to catch up on their League schedule.

Some of the muscles and limbs which have been exercised so regularly, have inevitably been either torn or twisted. Consequently, Forest are unlikely to be able to protect themselves sufficiently against United, who have been established as the favourites to win a trophy they have never before collected.

The loss of Stuart Pearce, who damaged knee ligaments during the victory over Southampton in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final a fortnight ago, could scarcely be more significant. There can be no adequate replacement for him, either as a spiritual leader or as a power-house of a left back.

The captain of England when Lineker is absent, Pearce has lifted Forest to three other triumphs at Wembley in the last four years. Without him, they have no one capable of smothering the obvious threat posed by the young player of the year, Ryan Giggs, on the right flank.

As if that was not bad enough, they will also be without Carl Tiler, who suffered a similar injury at The Dell on Wednesday. Nor is that the end of their potential problems. Darren Wassall, Steve Chettle and Gary Charles are all considered to be doubtful.

Their defence, therefore, could be threadbare before the start. If so, it is sure to have disintegrated by the end. Now that Lee Sharpe is returning to the form which earned him international re-

cognition a year ago, United are again a penetrative attacking force as they demonstrated at Norwich City.

Alex Ferguson, having persisted in playing a game of musical chairs with his squad, claimed then that he had found the pattern for which he had been searching. He retained it in mid-week for a local derby, the ferocity of which will contrast with the approach habitually pursued by Brian Clough's side.

Although Bryan Robson is likely again to be unavailable, Ferguson could reinforce his own defence, the strongest in the first division, by replacing Mal Donaghy with Paul Parker. Absent for five games, he confirmed his recovery from a hamstring strain by performing with the reserves, along with Neil Webb and Mike Phelan, on Thursday.

Forest's elegance will enhance the occasion but their style promises to suit their opponents as much as the turf. After ploughing through the mudflats known as Old Trafford, United will relish gliding across the smooth greenery inside the national stadium and claiming their fourth Cup within two calendar years.

The additional prize is qualification for next season's Uefa Cup, a place they would forfeit if they achieve their prime ambition, a place in the European Cup which would be their right as champions. The glittering prospect which has shown signs of unnerving them in the past few weeks, could, in turn, now be a slight distraction.

Forest have been responsible for imprinting a rare blemish on their season. One of their three League defeats was inflicted by Nigel Clough's lone goal at the City Ground three weeks ago. The return fixture is to be staged in Manchester on Easter Monday.

That may not be the last time they meet. A replay of the final, should it be necessary, has been scheduled for Goodison Park on May 6. Considering the respective records of the two clubs, a draw should not be discounted. United, other than being eliminated from the FA Cup on penalties, and Forest have each lost only one of their collective 34 ties this season.

NOTTM FOREST

A Marriott	1
B Laws	2
B Williams	3
D Walker	4
D Wassall	5
R Keane	6
G Crosby	7
S Gemmill	8
N Clough	9
E Sheringham	10
K Black	11

SUBSTITUTES: 12: L Glover; 13: I Woan.
Referee: G Courtney.

P Schmeichel	
P Parker	
D Irwin	
S Bruce	
G Palister	
P Ince	
L Sharpe	

C Blackmore or N Webb
B McClair
M Hughes
R Giggs

SUBSTITUTES: 12: M Phelan; 13: A Kanchelskis.
Referee: G Courtney.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Nottingham Forest
Second round: First leg: Bolton Wanderers (h) 4-0 (Keane, 2; Black); Second leg: 5-2 (Sherrington, Keane, 2; Gaynor, Black). Forest won 2-0 on aggregate.
Third round: Bristol Rovers (h) 2-0 (Glover, Gemmill).
Fourth round: Southampton (h) 0-0. Replay: 2-0 (Glover, Gemmill).
Fifth round: Crystal Palace (a) 1-1 (Clough). Replay: 4-2 (Sheringham, 3; Pearce).
Semi-final: First leg: Tottenham Hotspur (h) 1-1 (Sheringham). Second leg: 2-1 after extra time (Glover, 2; Pearce). United won 2-1 on aggregate.
BETTING (Coris): 5-4; Manchester United: 11-8; Nottingham Forest. Forest won 3-2 on agg.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

First division

Arsenal v Crystal Palace

Will Palace hit on the right way to restrict Ian Wright? They expect to find Selhurst Park's former favourite forward more than his colleagues on a high note, a run of 12 games without defeat. But Steve Coppell's side can draw strength from only one loss in its last seven games. A few high balls could be flying at Highbury where Arsenal give Winterbottom and Dixon a fine test. It would be unwise to omit the unsettled Smith. Palace are without Rodger but recall Mortimer. They will be only too well aware that seven goals in their last five games have made Arsenal the first division's leading scorers.

Aston Villa v Liverpool
David Atkinson has failed to live up to expectations at Villa Park, but is offered the chance to salvage something from a disappointing season by being recalled to the attack after recovering from a virus. Simon Grayson, 20, is fit again in defence for the injured Stanton, once of Liverpool, while Daley Rogers returns to the wing. Yorkie plays his final Villa game before leaving to represent Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Portsmouth on Monday. Ronny Moran, in charge of Graeme Souness' recovery from knee surgery, chooses from 18.

National League New York Mets 7; Pittsburgh Pirates 4; Atlanta Braves 3; San Francisco Giants 11; Atlanta Braves 4; Houston Astros 3; Cincinnati Reds 4; 13; innings Los Angeles Dodgers 3; Minnesota Twins 3; Milwaukee Brewers 1; Oakland A's 5; Kansas City Royals 2; San Diego Padres 3; Boston Red Sox 2; Baltimore Orioles 2; Cleveland Indians 0; Texas Rangers 2; Seattle Mariners 1; Chicago White Sox 7; California Angels 6.

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland Cavaliers 141; Charlotte Hornets 134; Orlando Magic 36; Atlanta Hawks 94; San Antonio Spurs 102; Los Angeles Lakers 94; Houston Rockets 17; Minnesota Timberwolves 103; Denver Nuggets 113; Dallas Mavericks 96; Seattle SuperSonics 119; Phoenix Suns 104; Los Angeles Clippers 106; Portland Trail Blazers 100; Sacramento Kings 124; Denver Nuggets 107.

BOXING TOKYO: WBA: Underweight champion: Yabu (Thailand) (Japan) vs Tranomai Simboden (Thailand); CECILIA, Italy: IBF junior-middleweight championship: Gianfranco Rosi (It), held by Angel Hernandez (Sp), rec 6th rd

Everton v Sheffield United

A single defeat in their last seven games has ensured that Sheffield United's status among the elite is secure for at least another season. They could offer Ward and Hartfield some more, but Collett and Nevins, two forwards who apparently have no part in Howard Kendall's long term plans, know faces a late fitness test on their knee.

Leeds v Chelsea

One win in their past five games has taken much of the fizz out of Leeds United's championship challenge, but if they win today, they could clinch the title. Manchester United, who have a game in hand, contest the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow. Why is it to return to central defence, while still, still only 22, and with a slender lead over the leaders? Chelsea welcome Andy Townsend back after suspension and are expected to persist with Casciano for the injured Stanton, once of Liverpool, while Daley Rogers returns to the wing. Yorkie plays his final Villa game before leaving to represent Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Portsmouth on Monday. Ronny Moran, in charge of Graeme Souness' recovery from knee surgery, chooses from 18.

Notts County v Coventry

County virtually accepted the inevitability of relegation to the second division, which they only did last night after Worcester's 2-0 win over them. They will have to do without Lineker, who has spared them some deep blushes in North London with seven goals in the last four matches. They must now hope for a miracle. Manchester United, who have a game in hand, contest the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow. Why is it to return to central defence, while still, still only 22, and with a slender lead over the leaders? Chelsea welcome Andy Townsend back after suspension and are expected to persist with Casciano for the injured Stanton, once of Liverpool, while Daley Rogers returns to the wing. Yorkie plays his final Villa game before leaving to represent Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Portsmouth on Monday. Ronny Moran, in charge of Graeme Souness' recovery from knee surgery, chooses from 18.

QPR v Tottenham

That midweek win at Meadow Lane may have effectively secured Tottenham's Premier League presence next season, but the future of Peter Shreeves is far from clear. The manager, the subject of considerable speculation, whoever is in charge next term will have to make do without Lineker, who has spared them some deep blushes in North London with seven goals in the last four matches. They must now hope for a miracle. Manchester United, who have a game in hand, contest the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow. Why is it to return to central defence, while still, still only 22, and with a slender lead over the leaders? Chelsea welcome Andy Townsend back after suspension and are expected to persist with Casciano for the injured Stanton, once of Liverpool, while Daley Rogers returns to the wing. Yorkie plays his final Villa game before leaving to represent Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Portsmouth on Monday. Ronny Moran, in charge of Graeme Souness' recovery from knee surgery, chooses from 18.

Notts County v Coventry

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Sheff Wed v Manchester City

Sheff Wed have not won away in the League since succeeding to Southampton on November 2, and must cross the Pennines without Culkin, their all-importing centre forward. While still take over the No. 9 shirt with Reid, Brightling, Mowbray and McAllister, the latter all set to join the starting eleven. Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, is expected to name himself as a substitute and Warhurst as the central defensive deputy for the injured Shirreff, as the Yorkshire side pursue a title Cup race.

Oldham v Luton

Alex Chamberlain played so well in goal on his first team last season that he is still in demand. Last night, the David Pleat testimonial match saw him in the limelight again. Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, is expected to name himself as a substitute and Warhurst as the central defensive deputy for the injured Shirreff, as the Yorkshire side pursue a title Cup race.

West Ham v Norwich

Doomed to demolition as they are apparently are, West Ham could make life uncomfortable for a Norwich side which has suffered four successive defeats and whose players are still smarting from an FA Cup semi-final defeat by Sunderland last Sunday. Injuries to Culverhouse, Cook, Phillips, Beck and Power, former members of the club's sweater system for an orthodox four-man defence, West Ham include Martin, aged 33 and available for a free transfer, for the first time since 1982. The team, currently 14th, face a difficult task against a Norwich side which has won eight of its last nine games. West Ham's relegation worries, not to mention the pressure suddenly on the shoulders of Dave Stringer, their manager.

□ Compiled by Louise Taylor

Match-by-Match Guide

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: Asian championships: Men: Singles: Final: S Dede (Malaysia) bt J Suparno (Indonesia) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12; Women: Final: S Dede (Malaysia) bt Fung Perng (Indonesia) 11-15, 15-12, 15-10; Women: Doubles: Semi-final: Ye Zhaoyang and Wang Jun (China) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12; China: Final: C Blackmore and N Webb (England) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12.

CYCLING TOUR OF BASQUE COUNTRY: Fifth stage: First leg (111 km): 1. A. Sotelo (Asturias) 2. J. González (Sp) 3. R. Alcalde (Asturias) 4. M. Moreno (Asturias) 5. J. Martínez (Asturias) 6. J. Gómez (Asturias) 7. J. Martínez (Asturias) 8. J. González (Asturias) 9. J. Martínez (Asturias) 10. J. González (Asturias) 11. J. González (Asturias) 12. J. González (Asturias) 13. J. González (Asturias) 14. J. González (Asturias) 15. J. González (Asturias) 16. J. González (Asturias) 17. J. González (Asturias) 18. J. González (Asturias) 19. J. González (Asturias) 20. J. González (Asturias) 21. J. González (Asturias) 22. J. González (Asturias) 23. J. González (Asturias) 24. J. González (Asturias) 25. J. González (Asturias) 26. J. González (Asturias) 27. J. González (Asturias) 28. J. González (Asturias) 29. J. González (Asturias) 30. J. González (Asturias) 31. J. González (Asturias) 32. J. González (Asturias) 33. J. González (Asturias) 34. J. González (Asturias) 35. J. González (Asturias) 36. J. González (Asturias) 37. J. González (Asturias) 38. J. González (Asturias) 39. J. González (Asturias) 40. J. González (Asturias) 41. J. González (Asturias) 42. J. González (Asturias) 43. J. González (Asturias) 44. J. González (Asturias) 45. J. González (Asturias) 46. J. González (Asturias) 47. J. González (Asturias) 48. J. González (Asturias) 49. J. González (Asturias) 50. J. González (Asturias) 51. J. González (Asturias) 52. J. González (Asturias) 53. J. González (Asturias) 54. J. González (Asturias) 55. J. González (Asturias) 56. J. González (Asturias) 57. J. González (Asturias) 58. J. González (Asturias) 59. J. González (Asturias) 60. J. González (Asturias) 61. J. González (Asturias) 62. J. González (Asturias) 63. J. González (Asturias) 64. J. González (Asturias) 65. J. González (Asturias) 66. J. González (Asturias) 67. J. González (Asturias) 68. J. González (Asturias) 69. J. González (Asturias) 70. J. González (Asturias) 71. J. González (Asturias) 72. J. González (Asturias) 73. J. González (Asturias) 74. J. González (Asturias) 75. J. González (Asturias) 76. J. González (Asturias) 77. J. González (Asturias) 78. J. González (Asturias) 79. J. González (Asturias) 80. J. González (Asturias) 81. J. González (Asturias) 82. J. González (Asturias) 83. J. González (Asturias) 84. J. González (Asturias) 85. J. González (Asturias) 86. J. González (Asturias) 87. J. González (Asturias) 88. J. González (Asturias) 89. J. González (Asturias) 90. J. González (Asturias) 91. J. González (Asturias) 92. J. González (Asturias) 93. J. González (Asturias) 94. J. González (Asturias) 95. J. González (Asturias) 96. J. González (Asturias) 97. J. González (Asturias) 98. J. González (Asturias) 99. J. González (Asturias) 100. J. González (Asturias) 101. J. González (Asturias) 102. J. González (Asturias) 103. J. González (Asturias) 104. J. González (Asturias) 105. J. González (Asturias) 106. J. González (Asturias) 107. J. González (Asturias) 108. J. González (Asturias) 109. J. González (Asturias) 110. J. González (Asturias) 111. J. González (Asturias) 112. J. González (Asturias) 113. J. González (Asturias) 114. J. González (Asturias) 115. J. González (Asturias) 116. J. González (Asturias) 117. J. González (Asturias) 118. J. González (Asturias) 119. J. González (Asturias) 120. J. González (Asturias) 121. J. González (Asturias) 122. J. González (Asturias) 123. J. González (Asturias) 124. J. González (Asturias) 125. J. González (Asturias) 126. J. González (Asturias) 127. J. González (Asturias) 128. J. González (Asturias) 129. J. González (Asturias) 130. J. González (Asturias) 131. J. González (Asturias) 132. J. González (Asturias) 133. J. González (Asturias) 134. J. González (Asturias) 135. J. González (Asturias) 136. J. González (Asturias) 137. J. González (Asturias) 138. J. González (Asturias) 139. J. González (Asturias) 140. J. González (Asturias) 141. J. González (Asturias) 142. J. González (Asturias) 143. J. González (Asturias) 144. J. González (Asturias) 145. J. González (Asturias) 146. J. González (Asturias) 147. J. González (Asturias) 148. J.

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Faldo starts Masters second round with a run of pars

Ballesteros battles to avoid cruellest cut

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

SEVERIANO Ballesteros gave himself a good chance of surviving the halfway cut in the Masters at Augusta National here yesterday with birdies at each of the last two holes to complete a second round of 68.

The Spaniard set himself a stiff task with a first round of 75 and looked to be on the borderline until his finishing flourish. The leading 44 players and ties make the halfway cut plus any others within ten shots of 68.

"I think the last birdie could be very important," Ballesteros said. "I putted better today than in the first round but I still didn't make as many as I should have done."

Jeff Sluman and Lanny Wadkins, who shared the first-round lead after rounds of 65, looked the most likely to set the mark as they went out three shots in front of their American compatriots, Davis Love III, Mike Hulbert and Ted Schulz, and the Australian, Wayne Grady.

Ian Woosnam, the defending champion, Steven Richardson, Bernhard Langer, Fred Couples and Jack

Nicklaus, who all began with rounds of 69, were also in contention. Woosnam began with two birdies.

Nick Faldo and John Daly, who both had first rounds of 71, took with them the largest crowd of the day and, arguably, the largest second-day gallery since Arnold Palmer was in his prime. Faldo began with eight successive pars.

Ballesteros putted abysmally in his first round and he knew that, to survive, he would need to regain his touch as he began his second round on a warm, windless day. At the 1st he made it easy for himself by hitting a nine-iron to two feet.

There seemed good reason to believe that Ballesteros might be on for one of his inspirational rounds when, at the 2nd, he came out of a greenside bunker to eight feet from where he holed for another birdie.

He certainly appeared to be in a positive frame of mind as he attacked the teasing 3rd hole with a driver to leave himself a simple pitch. Yet he left the shot 30 feet short and so wasted a wonderful opportunity of a third successive birdie.

Thereafter, Ballesteros struck one indifferent shot after another but stuck to the

Spaniard hit a poor

approach into a bunker at the 10th, exploded out to six feet and holed. But he failed to escape at the 11th, where he struck wild trees deep in the white dogwoods on the right. In playing his recovery out almost sideways, Ballesteros hit a stone which he angrily kicked as he moved on to the fairway.

Ballesteros and Berganio, who played some masterful shots but took longer and longer to do so, were warned for slow play at the 12th by David Eger, of the United States Golf Association. They had lost two holes on the match in front and they were holding up the one behind, which happened to be Arnold Palmer and Gary Player. In the Masters it is possible to be disqualified for repeated offences.

Ballesteros got up and down again at the 12th, holing from six feet, and he gave himself hope with a birdie at the 15th. It was hard work, however, and this just for a chance of making the halfway cut. But he holed from three feet at the 17th and from four feet at the 18th.

Jose-Maria Olazabal attached a 69 to his first round of 76 for 145 and so, like Ballesteros, he was compelled to wait to see what target the leaders would set. Olazabal had a look of total disinterest as he toured the course but he did not drop a single shot.

David Feherty, out in 38, was in need of a change of fortune after a first round of 73 and Colin Montgomerie, who began with a 72, took six at the 1st, although he recovered one shot with a birdie at the 5th. He was out in 37.

Sandy Lyle made a better start with birdies at two of the first three holes. He gave them back with fours at the short 4th and 6th holes but he made another birdie at the 8th. He was out in 35.

Roger Davis, of Australia, took advantage of the fine conditions to compile a 68, which put him on 145.

One man who will not win is Larry Nelson, who was disqualified. The former US Open and US PGA champion, realised that his clubs, which had decorative designs on the face, might not conform to the regulations and brought the matter to the attention of the rules committee. (AFP)

happy with what I shot," Daly said, "but I don't feel the way I am putting I can win this tournament. This course is made for me from tee to green, but I have got a lot to learn about the treacherous greens."

Daly hit 16 of them in regulation figures on Thursday but missed seven putts of less than eight feet. "I am

showed his power game to the full in a respectable first round of 71, one under par, but admitted he had much to learn about the treacherous greens.

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